



Running for cover: Serbian troops in the western part of Sarajevo under fire yesterday from Muslims as the ceasefire was ignored

Bosnia battles threaten talks

BY ANNE MCELVOY IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GUNS continued to pound Sarajevo for a second day yesterday, with no respite in Bosnia-Herzegovina's most bitter fighting so far.

An attempt to forge a ceasefire failed on the day before Lord Carrington, head of the European Community peace mission and Joao de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese foreign minister who holds the EC presidency, were due to arrive to lead negotiations between the warring parties. They are now unlikely to get beyond Belgrade.

Heavy artillery fire began at dawn with Muslim forces attacking the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza in the west of the capital. The 11am deadline for laying down arms called for by both Serb and Muslim leaders came and went, followed by more intense bouts of fire. Fighting ended 10 hours later, allowing United Nations lorries to evacuate about 60 elderly patients from a hospital that had been in the thick of the battles.

Witnesses said the fighting appeared to have been started by Muslims, emboldened by

their success in holding off a Serb advance on the centre on Tuesday. Shells exploded throughout the city centre and fighting was reported on the outskirts of the city and at the airport. Ambulances were unable to venture out to rescue the wounded.

The city is partitioned by barricades Muslim forces are struggling to retain control of Old Sarajevo, their traditional stronghold. Serb fighters were reported to have occupied a geriatric hospital several hundred yards from Muslim positions and sniper fire rang out throughout the day.

The Sarajevo headquarters of the UN peace mission to neighbouring Croatia was surrounded by marksmen and the hotel housing EC monitors was hit by a barrage of mortar fire. A British television cameraman working for Visnews was hit in the arm in crossfire and had to be airlifted to hospital in Belgrade. A Canadian journalist Continued on page 16, col 2

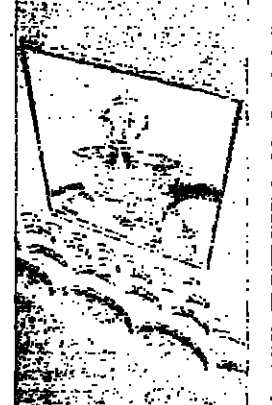
US gets tough, page 7
Leading article, page 15



RYHMING RHYTHMS

Lacey Dahl discusses a musical launch of the Road Dahl foundation Life & Times, page 1

BIRTHDAY BIRDIE



Tweety Pie, the cartoon canary, has survived predators such as Sylvester, the cat, for the past fifty years Life & Times, page 3

MODERN MANDARIN



Hugh Trevor-Roper's latest volume of essays is saluted by Antonia Fraser Life & Times, page 5

RUC thread, page 2
Leading article, page 13

Gas death attacked

The execution in the San Quentin jail gas chamber of the double murderer, Robert Alton Harris, has led to calls for legislation to substitute lethal injection for cyanide gas as the California method of capital punishment. It has also increased pressure for the release of a court-ordered videotape of the death and to have death sentences carried out in public view.

Harris' execution was the first in California for a quarter of a century and appears to have opened the way for the execution of more than 300 other inmates on death row in the state Page 11

Judges judged

A number of judges, in a rare television programme appearance, are putting a contrite and concerned message across to the public. One says that the judiciary would have to take a "share of the responsibility" for such injustices as occurred in the case of the Birmingham Six. Page 16

Brotherly bother

The Mother's Union and the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, were under attack yesterday for the union's decision to debate prostitution and the possibility of legalised brothels, and the bishop's defence of that decision. Page 13

Raiders foiled

Raiders who tried to use a forklift truck to steal from a building society cash dispenser were foiled by a lone policeman in an area patrol car. Police are now investigating the possibility that the thieves may have been responsible for other "hole-in-the-wall" robberies. Page 3

Player fined

Mark Ramprakash has been fined and severely reprimanded by Middlesex after an outburst during a match at Fenner's. He has admitted bringing the game into disrepute by making abusive remarks to the Cambridge University off-spinner, Marcus Wight. Page 28

Business urged to lead Britain towards recovery

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY AND ROSS TIEMAN

A GROUP of leading industrialists has called on the business community to trigger an economic recovery by restoring confidence among consumers, investors and managers.

Their positive view appears to be supported by an authoritative survey of business expectations published today by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC). The survey suggests that, after six consecutive quarters of economic contraction, the longest recession in postwar history was "very nearly over", even before the surge in business optimism which followed the election result.

The 41 industrialists say in a letter published in today's Times that by "acting with boldness and determination" the business community could make recovery a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The group, led by Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the international brewing, hotel and leisure group, wrote to The Times at the beginning of

the election campaign urging that "the spirit of enterprise should not be stifled". Today's letter exhorts the business community to "show what enterprise can really achieve" now that the Conservatives have won the election. "If we continue to think and talk in terms of when the recession ends, we shall succeed only in prolonging it," it says. Business leaders should "talk exclusively in terms of the recovery and act accordingly".

One of the letter's signatories, Sir Eric Parker, the chief executive of Trafalgar House, the construction and shipping conglomerate, questioned further about the recovery prospects, said that a cut in interest rates was necessary. "Sterling has firmed against the German mark and a half per cent cut in interest rates would be a tremendously positive signal."

Sir Allen Sheppard said that a recovery was now a matter of psychology. But he added that a reluctance to borrow was restraining con-

sumer and investment demand.

The BCC survey confirms the letter's view that a recovery could begin in the present quarter but suggests that it will be slow and hesitant, partly because of the high level of interest rates.

Based on responses from 8,810 firms, the survey shows that if order expectations, normally a reliable indicator, are fulfilled, growth will resume by the end of June. Miles Middleton, president of the BCC, said that the soundings were taken after the Budget but before the election, when many businesses feared a hung Parliament.

Mr Middleton said that the BCC had provided an early warning when the slowdown began during 1990. Now its survey showed that "we are very nearly out of recession".

The BCC survey, which is held every quarter, is the biggest into business confidence in Britain, covering service businesses such as shops, restaurants and banking, which account for three quarters of output, as well as manufacturing. It found that the service sector has halted its decline and that exporters were enjoying growth. The manufacturing sector remains in recession but the rate of contraction in output has slowed for the fourth consecutive quarter.

The BCC also questioned company directors about their order intake. After totting up their replies, the survey found that "a return to growing sales deliveries in both manufacturing and services is expected in the second quarter". The optimistic Continued on page 16, col 1

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Pound soars, page 17
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Many die in Mexico gas blast

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT least 16 people were killed and dozens more injured when a series of explosions ripped through the sewage system in the western Mexican city of Guadalajara yesterday, local government and Red Cross officials said.

Nine explosions were reported to have devastated a densely populated area of Guadalajara, toppling dozens of houses and burying cars and buses in rubble. Authorities feared dozens more may have died as the rubble was being searched. "There was a leak of inflammable gases which spread through the sewer system of the city," Agustin Rios of the Guadalajara Red Cross said. "There are anywhere from 200 to 300 people being treated, some of them for serious injuries from the collapse of their homes and explosions in the streets."

A local government official said that dozens of people had been killed in the blast, but Señor Rios said the exact figure of dead was still being calculated. "Some buildings have been completely flattened, as if there had been an earthquake," Señor Rios added. The first explosion left a four-yard-wide hole in the ground, and was followed by other smaller explosions.

The Mexican Red Cross said that hospitals were filled and that the army had taken charge of the situation. Nearly 100 injured were taken to local hospitals and many more were expected, a Centro Médico Occidente hospital spokesman said.

The government news agency Notimex said local residents had been complaining since Tuesday that gas was escaping from drains.

Big guns back Smith

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Smith has secured the backing of three-quarters of the shadow cabinet in his campaign to be the next Labour leader. The shadow chancellor's camp yesterday issued the names of 14 of the 18 elected members of the shadow cabinet who have declared their support for Mr Smith in his battle with Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, and Ken Livingstone, of the far left.

The move came as Ann Clwyd, one of the five deputy leadership candidates, said that unions which did not ballot their members should

not vote in the elections. It was "highlighting and insulting" that some unions had decided how they would vote before a single member had been consulted.

Meanwhile, Margaret Beckett, another candidate for the deputy post, said it would be foolhardy for the leadership contest to focus on the issue of whether the party's tax policy cost it the general election. Mrs Beckett said: "It is much too early to judge where we went wrong."

Smith backing, page 2
Bernard Levin, page 12

Prince assails too many people, too much poverty

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday issued a direct call for population growth to have a central place on the agenda of the "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro in June. Without naming them directly, he criticised nations, led by the Vatican, that have blocked attempts to have population treated as a separate issue at the conference, where some 150 world leaders aim to map out a strategy to cope with global environmental problems.

He made clear his sympathy with Third World countries, where most population growth will occur, insisting that it could not be tackled without tackling poverty, but insisted: "I don't, in all logic, see how any society can hope to improve its lot when population growth regularly exceeds economic growth."

By choosing to address head-on such a sensitive issue, the prince sought to

give new impetus to the summit, which is in danger of becoming bogged down in a dispute between the industrialised world and developing countries over who should pay for environmental improvements in the way nations manage their economies.

He made his remarks at a special meeting in London of the Brundtland Commission, the group of politicians named after the Norwegian prime minister whose report on the state of the global environment five years ago led to the Rio summit being called. "We live in dangerous times," the prince said. After sketching out other environmental threats, he robustly confronted the absence of population as a distinct issue for the Rio conference. "We will not slow the birth rate until we address poverty, and we will not protect the environment until we address the issues of population growth and poverty in the same breath," he said. "I do wish

that these simple and incontestable truths could find greater prominence on the Rio agenda. Sadly, it seems that certain delegations are determined to prevent discussion of population growth. In so doing, of course, they deny everyone else the opportunity for constructive discussion of policies which would address the environment, poverty and population growth together, rather than in isolation."

The British government, among others, has sought to have the summit agenda section headed "poverty" renamed "poverty and population", but this has been fiercely resisted by a group of nations, led on religious grounds by the Vatican. Others in the blocking group include the Philippines and a number of Latin American countries.

Gloomy topics, page 4
Standing room only, page 12



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RUC is strongest thread in web spun to destroy the IRA

AFTER more than 20 years combating the IRA, the Royal Ulster Constabulary is the linchpin of the sprawling web of counter-terrorist organisations and units deployed by Britain in Northern Ireland, mainland Britain and Europe. The RUC's special branch detachment is said to be the largest single unit of its kind in the United Kingdom. Not even Scotland Yard's special branch unit, with its wide responsibilities, can match the 500 officers available to the RUC.

Counter-terrorist experts acknowledge that the battle to beat an IRA force of 300 hard-line activists is at its keenest within the republican heartlands of Northern Ireland and among sym-

Not even Scotland Yard can match the RUC's special branch detachment, write Richard Ford and Stewart Tandler

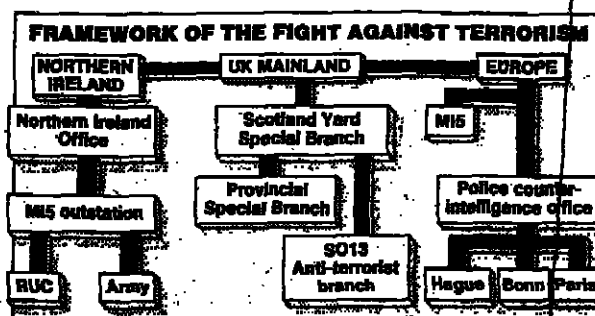
the RUC through tasking co-ordination groups but can draw on the support of the other agencies.

A senior MI5 officer, attached to the Northern Ireland office at Stormont, is director and coordinator of intelligence, but does not have an operational role. He is a member of the province's security committee, which the secretary of state, chief constable of the RUC, and the province's senior army officer oversee the overall security strategy. Any unresolved disputes between the army and the RUC are dealt with at this level, but the

committee does not deal with operational matters. MI5 is also responsible for counter-terrorist operations in Europe, including the Irish republic, and is assisted by MI6.

Although there are difficulties penetrating republican areas, Ulster, with a population of 1.5 million, remains a small village with traditional family structures. By frequent patrolling of strongly republican areas, the army and RUC can note the absences, friendships, and habits of suspects.

They carry out long-term undercover surveillance and have used front companies as



part of operations. Electronic surveillance, including the use of tracking devices attached to cars of suspects, have also been a feature of security force and intelligence operations. The IRA, however, has been able to counter such measures by using personal couriers. Recruiting informers re-

The present campaign has also succeeded because no intelligence agency spotted the IRA's renewed links with Libya in the mid-Eighties and the smuggling of four boat-loads of guns, ammunition and explosives into the republic.

In mainland Britain the 100-strong Irish desk at Scotland Yard's special branch is responsible for gathering and collating intelligence. An RUC officer is based with the unit, which also works with the Garda. Another 2,000 Special Branch officers round the country work with the Yard, whose anti-terrorist branch, another 100 officers, carries out investigations into attacks.

The mainland police effort

is coordinated through a committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Yard acts for other forces within Whitehall, where police sit on a number of committees attached to the joint intelligence committee, which draws up long term strategies and policy for the country. The JIC includes MI5, but not police.

As the IRA has moved into Europe the security service and police have followed. Counter-terrorist detectives from Britain now work in Holland, Germany and the Hague. Bonn and France. They work in the Trevi organisation, which links EC countries.

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Leaked memo, page 1

Smith wins backing of all but four in shadow cabinet

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith has won overwhelming backing from the shadow cabinet for his attempt to become leader of the Labour party.

His campaign managers announced yesterday that 14 of the 18 elected members had given Mr Smith their vote of confidence. Only Bryan Gould, who is standing against the shadow chancellor, John Prescott, who is contesting the deputy leadership, Michael Meacher, the shadow social security secretary, and Jo Richardson, the spokesman on women's rights, have not declared their support for Mr Smith, who is the hot favourite to win the election on July 18.

The latest demonstration of Mr Smith's solid backing within the Labour parliament-

ary party came as Ann Clwyd, one of the five candidates for the deputy leadership, made an outspoken appeal for the end of the trade union block vote and called on union leaders who were not balloting their members to stay out of the battle.

She said at Westminster that trade union leaders like Bill Jordan, of the engineers, should "sit on their hands" in the absence of a ballot. It was "frightening and insulting" that some unions had decided how they would vote before a single member had been consulted.

Ms Clwyd's views on the block vote are widely shared among Labour MPs and there is a growing expectation that the election defeat will be used as a springboard for a

campaign to try to dismantle it altogether, and certainly to remove the union influence from the election of Labour leaders. She also had some sharp words on the election campaign and claimed that the so-called "spin doctors" had taken excessive control of the campaign at the expense of the politicians.

Labour's overseas development spokesman said that her area of responsibility had been underplayed during the campaign. She said that two films had been "pulled" because the campaign chiefs had decided they were too hard-hitting, following in the wake of the emotive "Jennifer's Ear" health broadcast.

She said the films had strong images, including one of a child drinking out of a lavatory pan. Party sources agreed last night that the films had been considered unsuitable because they would have been portrayed as Labour blaming the Conservatives for Third World poverty.

Ms Clwyd said that people generally recognised a "rigged result" when they saw one, and there was growing belief that the block vote was just that. "Even the idea of trade union leaders taking soundings without balloting their members is open to abuse. Unless the unions genuinely reflect the views of their members of the leadership — and that means a ballot — then they should not vote in this election."

Mr Smith's shadow cabinet backs, apart from himself and Robin Cook, his campaign manager, are Margaret Beckett, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Clark, Ms Clwyd, Jack Cunningham, Donald Dewar, Frank Dobson, Barry Jones, Gerald Kaufman, Jack Straw and Ann Taylor.

Mr Cook said last night "John Smith has won the endorsement of three-quarters of the shadow cabinet. The people who have worked closely with him in the shadow cabinet in the past parliament have given him their vote of confidence. They know that John is the leader with whom they can all work in this parliament to win victory for Labour."

Lang sets sights on single-tier Scotland

By Kerry Gill

THE Conservatives yesterday launched their campaign for what could be the last district elections to take place in Scotland in their present form as it emerged that a new single tier of local authorities could be in place within four years.

The government is likely to opt for that tier being made up of councils based largely on the existing districts, although some regional councils may be retained if they are thought more appropriate, according to Allan Stewart, Scottish minister for local government. He said that the consultation exercise would be as broadly based as possible.

Mr Lang, the Scottish secretary, said only that he expected local government to be "rather different" in four or five years time, but that he sought a wide measure of agreement. The aim was to make it more local, accountable and effective.

On Tuesday, Charles Gray, leader of Strathclyde region, Britain's biggest council, gave a warning of civil disobedience, marches, demonstrations and even strikes if the government attempted increased interference, particularly if more competitive tendering led to loss of jobs. Mr Lang dismissed the comments as "post-election rhetoric".

He said that next month's elections would be fought on the Tories' vision for local government, emphasising value for money for local taxpayers, improvements in standards and making councils genuinely local and accountable. Council services would be measured against performance standards drawn up by the councils' accounts commission and the citizen's charter would play a bigger role.

The Tories are assured of controlling at least one council, Berwickshire, through lack of opposition candidates. Lord Sanderson, the Scottish party chairman, said they hoped to improve their number of councillors dramatically. The Tories at present control Eastwood, Bearsden and Milngavie, and Berwickshire, and have targeted Edinburgh, Stirling, Perth and Kinross, and councils in northeast Scotland. Mr Stewart said high-spending Labour councils could fall to the Tories, for example, Edinburgh.

Tories to decide late on fight for Speaker

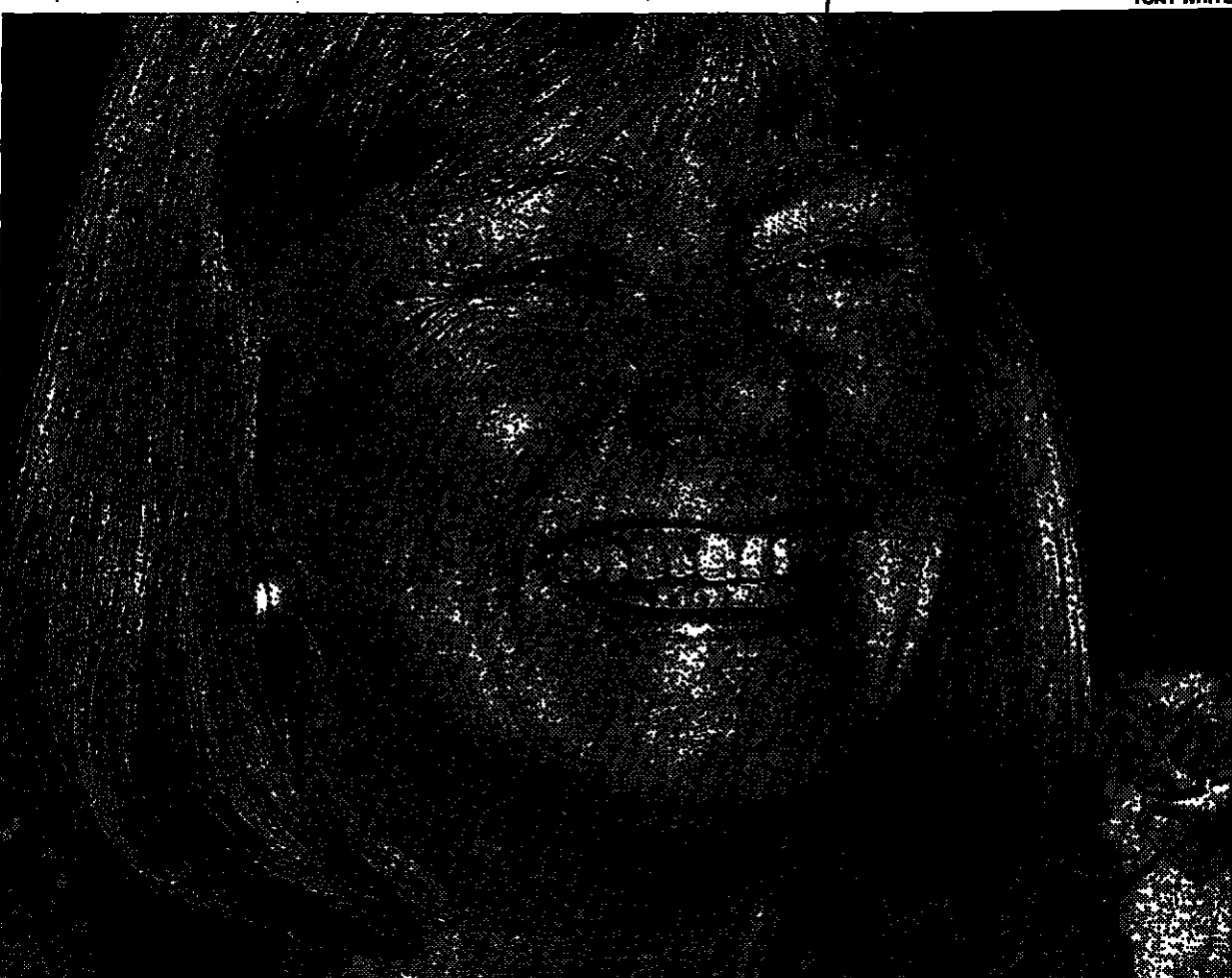
By Our Chief Political Correspondent

SENIOR Conservative backbenchers may canvass all weekend and up to lunchtime on Monday before deciding whether to challenge the Labour MP Betty Boothroyd for the Speakership of the Commons, it emerged yesterday.

With the House due to meet on Monday afternoon to choose a successor to Bernard Weatherill, it was clear that all five Tory candidates see themselves as still in the race, and are not yet prepared to give way to have an agreed Tory candidate. The prospect of Monday's sitting running into hours, or even days, as contenders' merits are debated was being floated.

Labour expects Tories to try to agree one name to put up if thought to have a chance of beating Miss Boothroyd. Some Tories back her. The Tory contenders are Terence Higgins, Sir Giles Shaw, Peter Brooke, Dame Janet Fookes and Paul Channon.

Letters, page 13



Fighting talk: Ann Clwyd, a candidate for Labour's deputy leadership, outlining her manifesto yesterday

Teachers issue opt-out warning

By Matthew D'Ancona, Education Reporter

THE leader of the moderate National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers gave a warning yesterday that teachers might take industrial action if governors of opted-out schools refused to recognise the union officially.

The union is due to meet the governors of Wilson's grant-maintained school at Wallington, southwest London where 20 NAS/UTW members fear they will be denied full negotiating rights.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's national general secretary, said he saw the school as a test case. "We are not going to allow teachers' unions to be decertified through the back door of grant-maintained schools." Opting out was part of the government's "hidden agenda" to break the unions and stifle the voice of the education lobby, he said.

The prospect of a post-election rush to opt out of local

authority control dominated the third day of the union's annual conference at Scarborough. Delegates called for a national staffing policy to stave off the inequality of educational provision they fear may emerge as more schools become grant-maintained.

The conference approved plans for a staffing model that would fund teachers according to actual costs and the curriculum needs of each school and take account of local social and economic factors. Under the scheme teachers' salaries would be a direct charge on central government with governors of opted-out schools and local authorities playing a merely supervisory role.

Mr de Gruchy said that the proposals reflected the logic and demands of the national curriculum. "It is a challenge to the government to take its own policy seriously and take the national curriculum and testing seriously."

Modern lessons in English defended

By Craig Seton

THE National Association for the Teaching of English began its annual conference at Birmingham University yesterday with members fearing that the national curriculum for English is to be rewritten to introduce more traditional and, they believe, less effective ways of teaching the subject in schools.

Some leading members believe that the Conservative think tank, the Centre for Policy Studies, may play an influential role in any plans to redraw the national curriculum to bring back teaching methods that they claim have failed. The association, representing more than 5,000 English teachers, mainly in state primary and secondary schools and sixth-form colleges, has been sung by claims that progressive teaching methods have led to low standards of reading and writing.

Yesterday, Henrietta Dombey, of Brighton Polytechnic,

a former chairman of the association, said: "It cannot be said that trendy approaches to the teaching of English are to do with lower attainment among seven-year-olds. The evidence cannot support the view that the teaching of English is going to the dogs."

Other factors were at work, not least an increasing division between rich and poor and declining social conditions, to explain why standards had fallen in some areas, particularly the inner-city, she said. Parents could not be expected to help a child's reading if their house was about to be repossessed or there was no prospect of work.

The association is concerned about the consequences that it expects from reducing course work in the GCSE. Terry Furlong, association chairman and an English inspector in Brent, said that course work had been a motor driving pupils' interest.

Hopes rise for Freddie the dolphin

Conservationists are on the lookout for Freddie the dolphin after reports that he had been seen cast doubts on rumours he had died.

Newspapers had reported overheard radio conversations between two fishing boats that Freddie drowned after becoming entangled in a net three weeks ago. But Andy Bone, a Newcastle-upon-Tyne diver who has often swum with the 12ft bottlenose dolphin, said yesterday he was "99.9 per cent certain" he saw Freddie off Tynemouth on Monday. He said that no fishing boats were out on the day of the reported netting because of a severe storm.

Horace Dobbs, director of International Dolphin Watch, said that he received a report of Freddie being clearly identified off Tynemouth on Friday. "I am being more positive than negative," he said.

Man who threw egg at Major fined £100

By John Harkin

A MAN WHO THREW an egg at Prime Minister John Major while he was in the car on his way to work yesterday was fined £100.

The man, who was identified as a 35-year-old man from the north, was fined for the offence of throwing an egg at a person in a motor vehicle.

Rabies warning

The rabies-free status Britain has enjoyed for most of this century would be at risk if vaccination became the standard protection against the disease throughout the European Community, George Gunn, chairman of the National Office of Animal Health, said yesterday.

Animal medicine manufacturers also urged the government to maintain quarantine controls.

Final decision

The future of the Roundhouse in north London, derelict since 1982, is to be resolved next Thursday, Camden council will decide on the winning proposal from seven bids to use the former engine shed, which in the Sixties and Seventies served as theatre and concert hall. Proposals include an exhibition of the global environment, arts centre, disco, cinema complex or re-use as a theatre.

Divine help

The Isles of Scilly have employed a water diver after suffering their worst drought. Using a hazel twig, Don Wilkins, from Chacewater, Cornwall, pinpointed two water sources in 100ft deep rock to supply the 70 people on the island of Bryher. The islands' council is also installing a desalination plant for the main island of St Mary's to produce 50,000 gallons of water a day.

Briton shot

A Briton living in Italy has been shot dead during an argument on his 26th birthday. Timothy James, a handyman, was shot in the chest in the courtyard of a house at Perugia, near Florence. Examining magistrates are interviewing a 45-year-old friend of Mr James from the Midlands. Mr James, from Cardiff, had worked in Coventry as a bricklayer before moving to Italy.

Steaming back

Irish Rail started training steam engine drivers yesterday for the first time in 33 years. The drivers will be hired out for "steam train specials" run mainly by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland. The eight trainees will replace drivers who are retiring. It will take them a year to qualify on an engine supplied by the society.

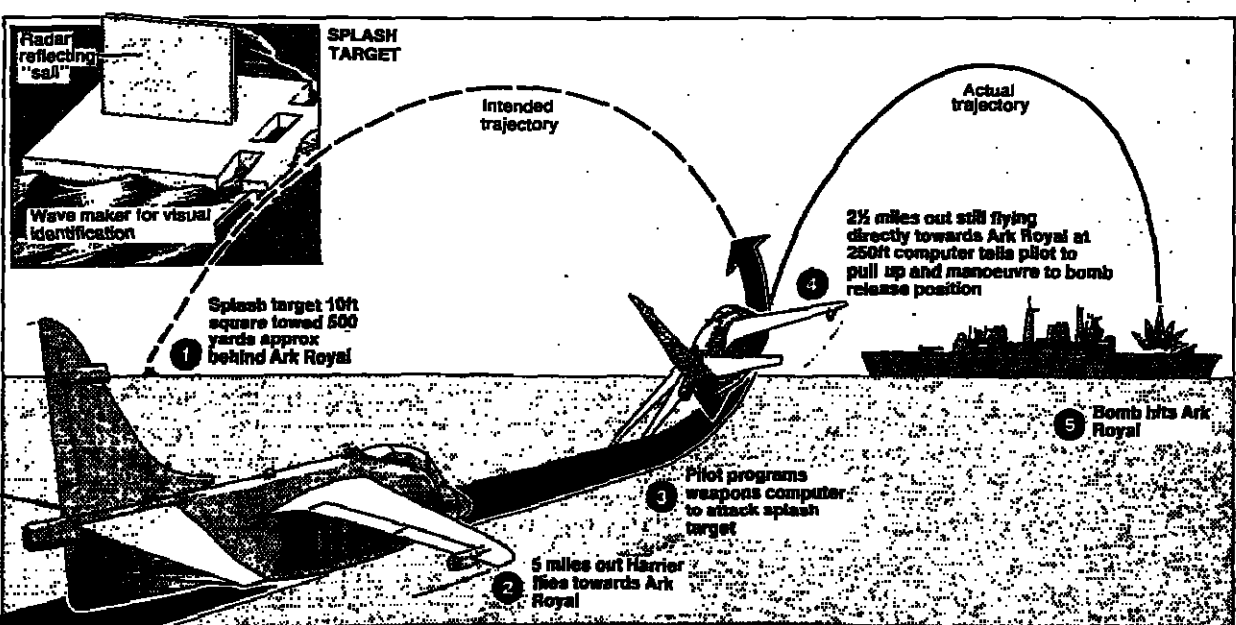
Target attacks banned after Ark Royal bombing

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE Royal Navy has suspended all practice attacks on targets towed by ships after a Sea Harrier flown by an RAF flight lieutenant accidentally bombed the aircraft carrier Ark Royal. A formal enquiry into the accident, which injured six sailors when the 28lb bomb exploded in the mess deck, has been launched by the defence ministry.

Practice bombing attacks are routine for the pilots of the six Harriers on Ark Royal. On Monday, an RAF officer on secondment to the Royal Navy was flying one of four Sea Harriers, which had gathered over the eastern Atlantic for an attack on a target towed by Ark Royal in a military training area off western Scotland.

The target, towed more than 500 yards behind the ship, was a three square yard wooden rectangle to which had been fitted a large white radar reflective sail, a special "wave maker" at its bow creating easily identified bow waves. During the operation, the Harrier dropped



to 250ft above the sea and made its attacking run at a right angle to Ark Royal. Its navigation radar locked onto the aircraft carrier's beam.

Five miles from the carrier, the pilot programmed his Blue Vixen weapon aiming computer onto the splash target. In seconds, the com-

puter calculated its speed and course and through a series of flashing messages told the pilot to pull up and twist the aircraft in a precise manoeuvre which should have lobbed the bomb upwards in a gently curving trajectory to within feet of the target.

Blue Vixen is so fast and

accurate that pilots often hit the target itself. In peacetime operations the computer is programmed to switch off and lock the bomb into its mountings if the attack has not been launched in the approved manner, which is with the aircraft flying directly at the ship.

As the ship is moving there

is, technically, no chance of the bomb hitting the ship, and it has never happened in thousands of practice bombing sessions.

This time something went wrong. Either the Harrier did not lock onto the ship, the weapons radar did not properly assess the true course of the "splash" tar-

get, or the pilot made a mistake in following the computer's instructions.

As he was back on duty last night and further practice attacks were banned, it is unlikely that naval experts believe the pilot could have been at fault.

The small bomb, filled with enough explosive to give off a bright flash, a bang and a spurt of water so that observers could judge the pilot's accuracy, ploughed instead straight through the Ark Royal's flight deck and into the mess room below, where sailors were relaxing between their duties on watch.

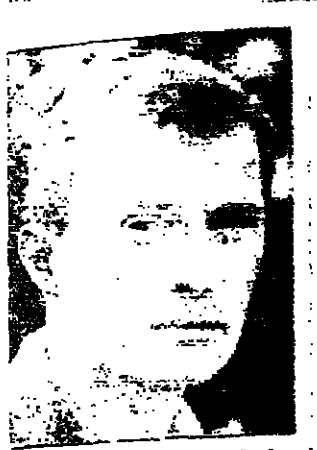
One of the six injured sailors, all male ratings, had a serious hand injury. Five were flown to Scotland and airlifted to Eastleigh airport, Hampshire, from where they were transferred to naval Haslar hospital at Gosport. A sixth man, suffering from shock, remained on the Ark Royal. All those taken to hospital were said to be comfortable.

The Ark Royal is continuing with routine exercises, but without "splash" target attacks by its Harriers.

Man goes for his life to 'terror'

AN IRISHMAN WHO THREW an egg at Prime Minister John Major while he was in the car on his way to work yesterday was fined £100.

The man, who was identified as a 35-year-old man from the north, was fined for the offence of throwing an egg at a person in a motor vehicle.



Man who threw egg at Major fined £100

By John Harkin

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Man who threw egg at Major fined £100

Brothel

THE Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, came under attack yesterday for defending the decision of the Mothers' Union to debate prostitution. The union and the bishop were criticised by the anti-pornography campaigner Mary Whitehouse.

Staff at the Mothers' Union, founded in 1876 to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves family life, were taking calls from many countries yesterday after the decision of the union's special committee to debate the legalisation of brothels was reported briefly in the Union's periodical Home & Family.

Susan Curtis-Bennett, a staff member, said: "It is amazing. We only have a few lines here. Who would think an innocent little paragraph

Man gets nine years for hiring killer to 'terminate' wife

By NICHOLAS WATT

AN UNEMPLOYED businessman who hired a contract killer to murder his wife of 28 years so that he could collect £560,000 in insurance money was jailed for nine years yesterday.

Malcolm Stanfield, 52, of Horley, Surrey, was so confident that his plan would succeed that he played a round of golf at the time he thought his wife was being knocked down by a lorry. But the "killer", known as George, was a policeman who had been alerted after Stanfield discussed the plan with friends.

Andrew Baillie, for the prosecution, said that Stanfield told "George": "I want a complete termination job. I don't want a hospital job. I want it completely zap — the sooner the better."

The court was told that the idea was put to Stanfield by a third party, but that the man who was to have organised the killing tipped off the police. "George" then secretly taped a number of meetings with Stanfield in which he mapped out detailed plans for the hit and run murder. Stanfield showed "George" photographs of his wife and arranged for him to meet her. They agreed a fee of £30,000.

Lorraine Stanfield, 48, was not told by police of the plot. The "killer" was supposed to run her down in a deserted road when she agreed to pick up her husband from a public house near their home. She parked her car nearby and walked along the narrow road with no footpath. Instead of running her over, "George" skirted by her. Showing the judge pictures of the scene, Mr Baillie said: "You can see it would be the easiest thing in the world for a lorry to knock her down with no one around."

She waited for her husband at the pub but was met by police. Stanfield was arrested after his round of golf and admitted his plot when his wife confronted him at a police station. She begged him to tell her it was not true but he said: "I could see a light at the end of the tunnel with my problem. It was the only way I could clear my problem."

She was devastated and is now seeking a divorce. Mr Baillie told the court: "Until that day she thought the marriage was entirely happy."

Stanfield, who admitted soliciting the murder of his wife last October, was told by Judge Lowry, QC, at the Central Criminal Court: "For this dreadful crime a severe sentence is necessary." The court was told that Stanfield would have collected £560,000 from three insurance policies and after paying off debts would have been left with £250,000.

Stanfield had been a successful director at a large garage and lived in a £300,000 detached house with his wife and their three grown children. But, said Michael Hubbard, QC, for the defence, Stanfield had been made redundant by the garage and two property plans had failed. He lost more than £110,000 and he was also being sued for £127,000 by a builder.

Mr Hubbard said: "It's the old, old story. A burden of debt which drives a man to do something utterly unthinkable in terms of his character and personality and lifestyle."

Stanfield underwent a colostomy operation in 1988, Mr Hubbard said. "The effect of that on anyone is bound to be dramatic and traumatic. He convalesced but no sooner had he recovered his health and got to grips with this permanent way of life he was made redundant."

Mr Hubbard said that Stanfield still loved his wife but medical reports showed he could switch himself off emotionally and act mechanically. "Why a man of 52 would put out a contract on his wife merely for the proceeds of an insurance policy is beyond explanation. It is his cry today that he still loves his wife."



Happy family: Karina Willett, 9, is reunited with her parents, Tony and Kathy, after going missing for more than a day. Police had used tracker dogs and helicopters in their search for Karina, who was found watching a video in a flat a short drive from her home in Horsham, West Sussex. Mrs Willett said: "We are really happy to have her back." Her husband said that they had feared the worst when she had been missing for so long. He thanked everyone involved in the search. A man was being questioned last night.

Minister orders checks for bee virus

By MICHAEL HORNSEY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

A RANDOM check of apiaries throughout southern Britain was ordered by the government yesterday amid growing fears that a parasitic disease of honey bees may be endemic.

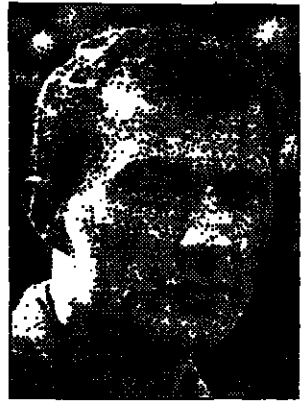
The mite, *Varroa jacobsoni*, which sucks the blood of larvae and adult bees, has long been established in most parts of the world, but Britain was thought until recently to be free of the pest.

David Curry, the junior agriculture minister, said the parasite had been detected in 44 apiaries — 38 of them in Devon, four in Somerset and two in Surrey — since the first sighting at Cockington, south Devon, earlier this month.

The parasite has long cohabited with the Asian honey bee (*Apis cerana*) without causing harm, but the European bee (*Apis mellifera*) is much more vulnerable. Where the infestation is heavy, colonies can die within two or three years.

William Collins, who keeps bees at Daventry, Northamptonshire, said: "If the parasite is widespread here, many beekeepers may not be willing to undertake regular treatment of hives and may give up beekeeping. Fewer bees would be serious for crops and wild flowers that require pollination."

Mr Collins said that Stanfield still loved his wife but medical reports showed he could switch himself off emotionally and act mechanically. "Why a man of 52 would put out a contract on his wife merely for the proceeds of an insurance policy is beyond explanation. It is his cry today that he still loves his wife."



McIntyre was hustled from scene by police

Man who threw egg at Major fined £100

By LIN JENKINS

A MAN who hit John Major with an egg during the election campaign was fined £100 and ordered to pay £10 towards the prime minister's dry cleaning bill.

John Bruce McIntyre, 25, a politics student at Portsmouth Polytechnic, admitted using threatening or abusive behaviour towards Mr Major during a visit to a supermarket three days before polling.

Mike Carreras, for the defence, told magistrates at Eastleigh, Hampshire, that McIntyre, a Labour party activist, "saw John Major running a soap box campaign and felt that the type of campaign invited the sort of demonstrations of opinion that led to the throwing of the egg". The instant the egg was thrown, McIntyre was grabbed by police and hustled away.

Richard Willcox, for the prosecution, said the egg hit the right side of Mr Major's face, causing a small cut to his cheek, during a visit to the Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury superstore at Hedge End near Southampton. McIntyre had told police he did it "because I'm opposed to the government".

Mr Carreras said the incident was: "Not likely to become a regular occurrence — at least not for another five years ... The opportunity was there at the time and it was taken."

After fining the accused, George Morgan-Harris, chairman of the bench, awarded compensation although he was told that no claim had been made.

After the hearing, McIntyre said he did not regret the incident and rejected the idea that it had increased Mr Major's popularity.

Policeman foils hole-in-wall raid

By PETER VICTOR

A LONE policeman in an area patrol car foiled the latest attempt at what have become known as hole-in-the-wall raids when he prevented a gang from stealing an Abbey National cash dispenser with a forklift truck. Police are now investigating the possibility that the thieves may be responsible for other cash dispenser raids involving a total of about £2 million in cash, lost machines, and damage to buildings.

PC Stephen Woodroff, 33, from Hertfordshire, spotted the thieves as they tried to rip the dispenser — thought to have held about £60,000 — from the glass frontage of an Abbey National branch in Romford, east London, at 4.15pm yesterday. He caught one man after radioing for help, abandoning his car and giving chase on foot.

Two other members of the gang were held nearby by officers who responded to the call for assistance. The arrests sparked a series of raids on addresses in the south London area and some people were believed to have been interviewed.

Chief Supt Basil Racey of Romford police said he feared more copycat raids following the recent spate. "It's a new sort of crime. These machines do carry considerable amounts of cash so they will be vulnerable and they will be targets," he said. He praised PC Woodroff's initiative and courage in dealing with the attempted raid.

A gang using JCB diggers or earth-moving machines has torn cash machines bodily from four Abbey National bank branches and one Nationwide Anglia Building Society office in the past few weeks.

Raiders using a JCB digger smashed through the glass front of the Abbey National branch in Gillingham, Kent, on Easter Sunday and tore the cash dispenser off its mountings.

The machine was loaded on to the back of a stolen white Ford Transit tipper truck and driven off. The truck was later found abandoned. The cash dispenser contained £57,440 and was itself valued at £40,000. Damage caused to the branch was valued at £14,000.

Kent police are liaising with Metropolitan Police detectives investigating similar

thefts from Abbey National branches in London and the south east over the past month. All involved the use of JCBs and took place early in the morning.

The gang is believed to have targeted Abbey National as its cash dispensers are set in glass windows rather than brick walls.

Abbey National said yesterday that it had lost around £100,000 in cash in the raids. A spokesman added that the location of the machines and the layout of the bank's shopfronts was under investigation and would be considered further following the outcome of police inquiries.

Carla Lane tries to square the circle

By LOUISE HIDALGO

RESIDENTS in a north Wales coastal town have launched a campaign against an "anti-Christian" stone circle erected on an island animal sanctuary owned by Carla Lane, the comedy scriptwriter.

The protests began when helicopters were used to transport four-foot stones to Tudwal's Island East to make the circle earlier this month. Miss Lane's son, who lives in the town, Abersoch in Gwynedd, has received anonymous telephone calls from people threatening to burn down his house. Residents have signed a petition demanding that the island not be changed.

Miss Lane bought the 30-acre island, two-and-a-half miles off the north Wales coast, last year. It is home to a variety of seabirds, dolphins and seaweed-eating sheep. The previous owner, Jill Fairhurst, the children's writer, was fined £2,000 for leaving 18 red deer to starve to death on it.

The protest centres around the stone circle, which Miss Lane had built as a reminder of "man's inhumanity to animals", and a new roof Miss Lane has put on acroft on the island, without applying for planning permission. The croft is a listed building believed to be built on the remains of a 13th-century chapel.

Penny Jones, from nearby Bwlchycyn, who organised the petition, said: "We want to protect the landscape and make sure proper procedures are followed for any changes."

Miss Lane said yesterday that she would apply for planning permission for the roof if councillors decided, when they met tonight, that it was necessary. "I have no intention of changing the island in any way. The croft is not being used as a dwelling house and the island will remain uninhabited as I promised and intended. I feel as if I am being put on trial for something I have not done. 'If Dwyfor District Council ask me to replace the Welsh slates I put on the croft's roof I will do it if that's the law. But I've been advised that they can't have to remove the stone circle.'"

Wanted man dies in crash

By RAY CLANCY

A MAN wanted for questioning in connection with a fire at a party in which five people died has been killed in a road accident, police said yesterday.

Trevor Carrington, 38, of Brighton, East Sussex, died after being struck by a truck on the B2028 Lindfield to Ardingly road, West Sussex, on Tuesday afternoon. Police had wanted to question him about an arson attack at a flat in Hove at the weekend.

Sussex police said that Mr Carrington was in the road way when he was hit by the lorry close to the entrance of the Holyrood Convent. The truck driver, Malcolm Stewart, 46, of Uckfield, East Sussex, was unhurt. Det Supt Michael Bennison, leading

the inquiry into the fire early on Saturday at the four-storey house converted into flats, said he could not comment on speculation that Mr Carrington had intended to kill himself. Officers were preparing a report for the coroner and it was up to an inquest to decide the cause of Mr Carrington's death.

"Mr Carrington was one of the last people to leave the party before the fire broke out. It was imperative that we spoke to him and we were making inquiries to trace him at the time of his death," Mr Bennison said.

Mr Carrington, who was unemployed, had left the flat in Palmeira Avenue with another man shortly before the fire broke out. Police re-

fused to name the other man who was arrested and questioned all day yesterday before being released without charge last night. Mr Bennison added that Mr Carrington had been wanted for interview "to be eliminated from inquiries". No one else is being sought at present in connection with the fire.

Detectives believe that someone set fire to a sofa on the landing below the third floor flat. Inquests on the deaths of Mr Carrington and those who died at the party will be opened at Lewes on Monday.

Two of the fire victims have yet to be identified. Dental tests were being carried out in an attempt to identify one of them.

Brothel debate rages around bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, came under attack yesterday for defending the decision of the Mothers' Union to debate prostitution. The union and the bishop were criticised by the anti-pornography campaigner Mary Whitehouse.

Staff at the Mothers' Union, founded in 1876 to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves family life, were taking calls from many countries yesterday after the decision of the union's social concern committee to debate the legalisation of brothels was reported briefly in the union's periodical *Home & Family*.

Susan Curtis-Beckett, a staff member, said: "It is amazing. We only have six lines here. Who would think an innocent little paragraph

would cause all this fuss?" Dr Margaret White, a former central vice-president of the union, accused it of shedding principles like leaves. On BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* she said: "Christ taught us that if we found somebody in the gutter we would help them get out of it, not get down into it and wallow in the mud with them."

Bishop Sheppard, chairman of the Church of England's board for social responsibility, robustly defended the union. "The Christian gospel not only proclaims values, it reaches out to those who have got themselves in a moral mess and offers them help where they are," he said.

He compared legalising brothels to issuing free needles to drug addicts, a policy which he has supported in

Liverpool, without supporting drug abuse. The bishop said: "The greatest question is, what do we do when the world is not as we would like it to be? The serious risks of HIV/Aids mean we are right to consider the possibility of licensing brothels."

"We should continue to look upon prostitution as a sin but there is a difference between a crime and a sin. I think it is right that the question of whether public policy should term prostitution as criminal or not should be asked. I am pleased that the Mothers' Union are encouraging us to ask this question."

Mrs Whitehouse said people would interpret the bishop's comments as saying that the church condoned the use of brothels. "Jesus told the prostitute to go and sin no more. He did

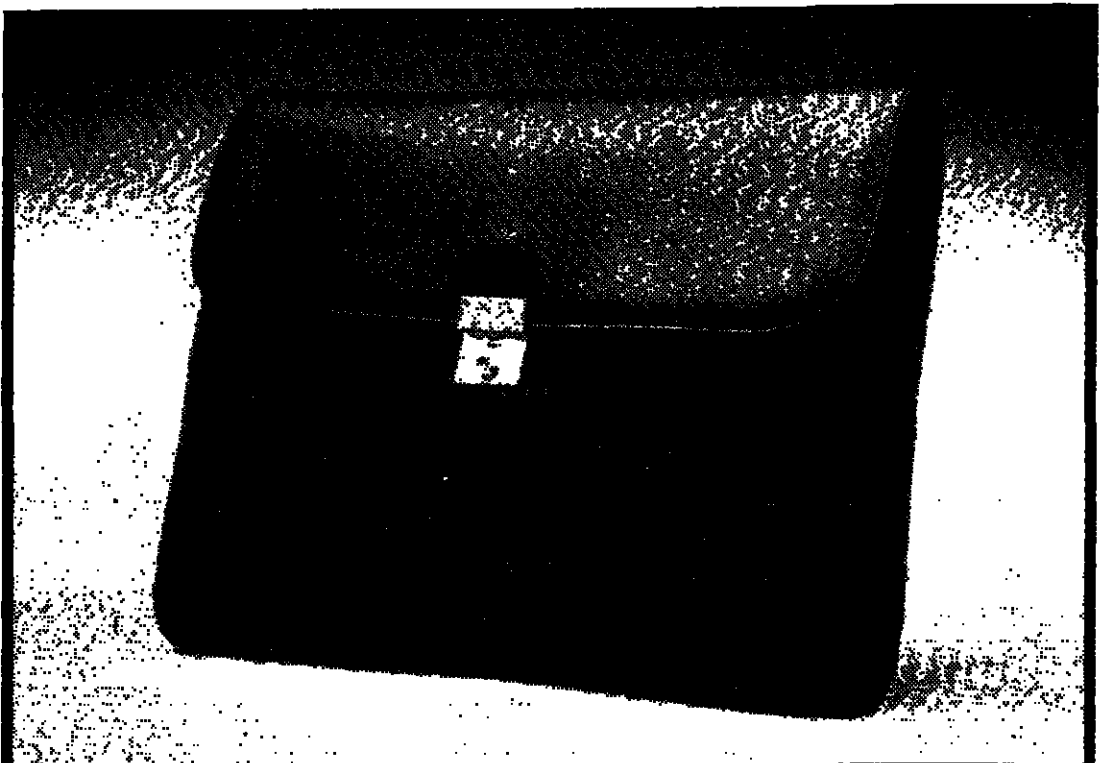
not say don't worry, we will make it legal." Acc't, the Christian-based Aids agency, said legalising brothels would lead to the spread of Aids.

Margaret Duggan, editor of *Home & Family*, said the union stood by its traditional ideal of Christian marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship. "But the issue of whether prostitutes, their clients and society at large are at risk of Aids is one that Christians should treat responsibly."

Lydia Gladwin, vice-chair of the 88-member social concern committee, which is examining a discussion document on the subject, said: "The Mothers' Union is only asking people what they think. It is not making any statement."

Leading article, page 13

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Big advance in treatment of haemophiliacs

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

A BRITISH haemophiliac has been operated on at the Royal Free Hospital in north London using synthetic factor VIII to make blood clot. The hospital believes that this is the first time the synthetic version, made by genetic engineering, has been used to control bleeding during an operation in Britain.

The use of synthetic factor VIII rather than material derived from human blood removes all danger of infection by the Aids virus.

Keith Colthorpe, a senior fire control officer from Southend-on-Sea, was given an artificial knee during the operation at the end of last month. His knee had developed arthritis as a consequence of bleeding into the joint, a common problem for haemophiliacs.

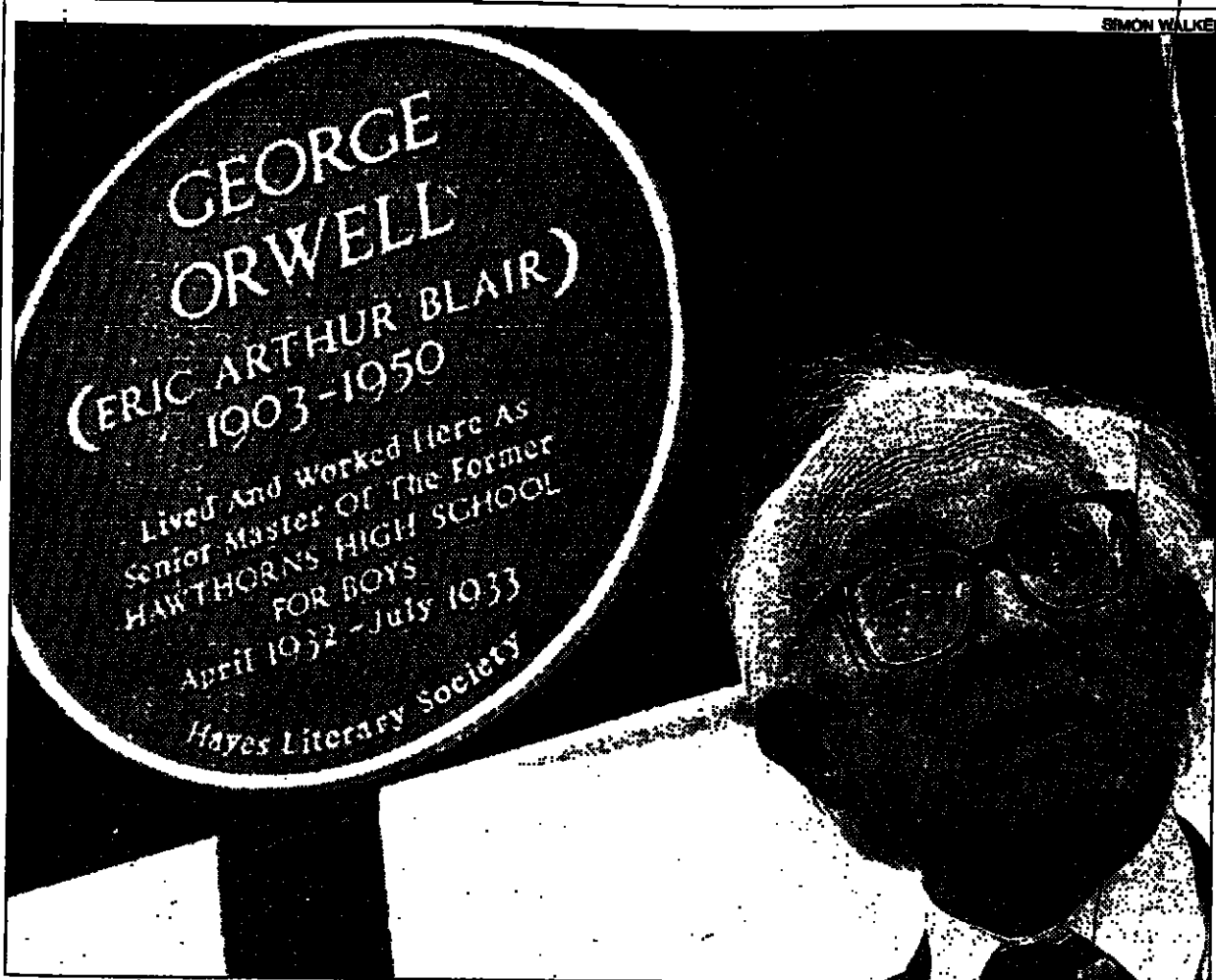
Consultant surgeon Colin Madgwick said: "It is a major undertaking to operate on a patient with a severe bleeding disorder. To be able to rely on a safe and effective means of

controlling bleeding during surgery and in the post-operative period is of significant benefit to both patient and surgeon."

Mr Colthorpe is recovering from the operation and doing well. He will remain at the hospital for three more weeks and hopes to be back at work in early August.

Synthetic factor VIII, manufactured by an American company, will not be generally available until clinical trials now in progress are concluded. Dr Christine Lee, who looks after the haemophilia patients at the hospital, an NHS trust, said: "In the near future this product should provide a safe treatment for many patients with haemophilia without any dependency on a human blood supply."

About 6,000 people in Britain suffer from haemophilia, and about half of them require regular replacement of factor VIII, often two or three times a week, to prevent or control bleeding episodes.



Mastery memorial: the former Labour leader Michael Foot unveiling a plaque yesterday at the site of the school at Hayes, Middlesex, where George Orwell, then known as Eric,

Blair, taught from 1932-3. During his time at Hawthornes High School for Boys, his first novel, *Down and Out in Paris and London*, was published and he created his pseudonym. An hotel now stands on the site. A *Clergyman's Daughter* and *Coming Up for Air*, both written after Orwell left Hayes, were based on his experiences in the town.

Gloomy topics we cannot afford to ignore

Extracts from the speech by the Prince of Wales to the Brundtland Commission which reconvened in London yesterday

The Prince of Wales recalled the recent joint report of the Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences which said that "the future of the planet is in the balance" and predicted "catastrophic outcomes for the global environment". He also referred to a report of the World Health Organisation which said that polluted environments caused the death of millions every year. He said: "None of these bodies is known for its tendency to exaggerate; rather the reverse. This makes it all the more amazing that so many people still prefer to turn their backs on the signs of planetary stress that are indisputable. The issues raised are never going to be comfortable subjects for polite conversation. Apart from anything else, they always make you sound so intolerably gloomy — and I'd much rather make people feel happy."

"But I think we have to ask ourselves, firstly, whether we can continue to ignore the prospect of a virtual doubling of the world's population — to somewhere approaching ten billion — by 2050. Secondly, can we look forward to any kind of real security as the global gap between rich and poor continues to widen?"

Man's rise 'a threat to wildlife'

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE world's population growth may eat up an area of wildlife habitat twice as big as all of its present protected natural areas, according to a new study.

Paul Harrison, a researcher for the UN population report, to be released on April 23, says that this area will be needed for the level at which global population is expected to stabilise — 11.5 billion.

"A world of 11.5 billion people would need roughly an extra 12.6 million square kilometres of land for farms, towns and roads," he says in *The Third Revolution*, a study of environment, population and the world economy. "This amounts to almost a third of today's world forest area, and double the world's protected natural areas."

Mr Harrison says that, at the expected annual increase of 97 million, the 1990s will see two European countries added over the decade, two United Kingdoms every 14 months and a school class of 30 every ten seconds. Population growth causes almost 80 per cent of deforestation in developing nations, mainly for farming and building, he says.

Mr Harrison says, however, that person for person, industrialised nations do much more environmental harm than Third World ones. "The average person in a developed country emits roughly 20 times more water and climate pollutants," he says.

capita wealth of Europe with China, or India, the ratio in 1890 was two to one. By 1940, that ratio was 40:1; today it is 70:1. Is it really any wonder that the "South" are approaching the Rio conference event with open economic demands?

"I do not want to add to the controversy over cause and effect with respect to the Third World's problems. Suffice it to say that I don't, in all logic, see how any society can hope to improve its lot when population growth regularly exceeds economic growth. The factors which will reduce population growth are, by now, easily identified: a standard of health care that makes family planning viable, increased female literacy, reduced infant mortality and access to clean water."

Achieving them, of course, will not slow the birth rate until we address poverty, and we will not protect the environment until we address the issues of population growth and poverty in the same breath. I wish these simple and incontestable truths could find greater prominence on the Rio agenda. Sadly, it seems that certain delegations are determined to prevent discussion of population growth. In so doing, they deny everyone else the opportunity for discussion of policies which would address the environment, poverty and population growth together, rather than in isolation.

(Addressing Mrs Brundtland) "I can well understand why your report called for huge increases in the rates of economic growth in the Third World. But it is really wise to call for such rapid growth, until we can be certain that the growth which emerges will both serve the people most in need? It is now widely accepted by economists that Gross National Product is merely a reasonably good indicator of the overall level of a nation's economic activity. It is a thoroughly misleading indicator of national wellbeing, let alone sustainability. "We clearly need some measure of "green GNP" which calculates the nation's output after deducting the depreciation of nature's capital. No business can afford to operate by eating into its capital, and in this respect nations are no different."

Prince's plea, page 1 Standing room left? page 12



The prince: "unwise to chase fast growth"

Cat cancer blamed on loss of ozone

BY NICK NUTTALL TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ENVIRONMENTAL campaigners, perhaps concerned that messages about damage to the ozone layer are falling on deaf ears, are appealing to the British public's traditional love of pets to get their argument across.

Greenpeace is citing the case of Kipper, a cat from Bristol, who recently had his ear removed after contracting skin cancer. Such cancers are expected to increase if the ozone shield thins significantly over Europe, although this is the first time that cats have been identified as being at particular risk.

The group argues that cats, natural sun lovers, are prone to cancers of the ear, nose and eyelids, especially if they are of the blue-eyed, white-furred Siamese variety, fingers with white ears or are albino.

Kipper, a snowy white, is not an isolated case, according to the group. "White cats everywhere are at risk because they have little protection from ultra-violet light," Greenpeace says. It wants a ban on

ozone-depleting chemicals and is advising owners to coat cats in sun-tan lotion. Greenpeace turned its attention to cats after a series of vigorous campaigns over ozone depletion attracted only limited publicity with the media wearying of such stories.

The move was clearly tactical. Tony Good, a public relations expert and head of Good Consultancy, in London, said: "One has to be admiring of somebody who, having failed to get something across in terms of humans, is trying to hit the public where they know it is most vulnerable, ie, domestic pets."

However, the vet who treated Kipper, Joe Tristram, of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals in Bristol, said yesterday that he would be concerned if it were implied that the cat's cancer was linked with ozone depletion. He believed that some skin cancers had increased on cats in recent years, but linked this with the hot summers of 1989 and 1990 rather than loss of ozone.

Cruel made for el a 'war

By Bill

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Two deny acid attack on woman

Two men accused of attacking a woman with acid have denied the charges. The woman, who was seriously injured, is now recovering in hospital.

...and ...

Beach warning

Holidaymakers on West Country beaches face prosecution if they ignore lifeguard warnings and swim in dangerous conditions. Newquay council has already prosecuted one father and a spokesman said a number of other seaside councils were to give beach patrols greater powers.

Bronze find

Bronze age artifacts including three axes and 22 ingots have been found under the sand at Freshwater East in Dyfed by a woman using a metal detector. The National Museum of Wales said the find was "of the first importance among Welsh late Bronze age metalwork."

Clean away

Thieves stole clothes worth £2 million from washing lines in South Wales last year, Swansea CID said. "These people are not just stealing knickers, they are stealing prestige label jeans and shirts."

Goal in sight

Olive Gilbert, aged 75, who has supported Halifax Town for 50 years but is unhappy about the team's penalty kicking record, will try out her own skill when she takes part in a penalty shoot-out before Saturday's home game.

Ponies slashed

Police are investigating a series of attacks on ponies in Hampshire and West Sussex in which tails have been cut off and skin slashed.

Slow progress

Sybil Laird, a voluntary nurse of Havant, Hampshire, has collected an Open University degree in European Studies started in 1975.

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Cruel nurse made home for elderly a 'war zone'

By BILL FROST

A NURSE who tied senile patients to chairs and subjected others to a catalogue of further cruelty was removed from the nursing register yesterday.

Mary Dickson was struck off by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visitors after a tribunal was told that five frail women, aged between 60 and 90, were abused at her hands.

Mrs Dickson, 72, tied patients to chairs with bandages and rugs and barricaded others in their rooms and beds using piles of chairs. She force-fed one old woman with a syringe, cutting her lip and causing her mouth to bleed.

The tribunal was also told that Mrs Dickson compelled a woman, aged 90 and suffering from senile dementia, to sleep on a mattress on the floor because she feared the patient would fall off her bed. One patient aged 70 had a stroke after being forcibly confined to a chair. Mrs Dickson tied down the woman with a bandage, the tribunal was told.

Staff at the Portland Nursing Home in Hove, East Sussex, where Mrs Dickson worked, told the tribunal that they heard patients crying and yelling in their rooms. She had locked them in or barricaded doors with piles of furniture.

Barbara Pennick, a fellow employee, claimed that Mrs Dickson had created a "war zone" at the nursing home between March 1988 and September 1990. She said: "Patients were not treated gently. With one 90-year-old woman, she would get ex-

remely agitated and call the patient names. The patient would scramble to the end of the bed and fall off and Mrs Dickson would get mad because this meant a hospital visit and embarrassment for her. Mrs Dickson would pull the mattress on the floor because she feared the woman would crawl off her bed."

Mrs Pennick told the hearing that barricades of chairs were erected to pen patients in their beds. "Sometimes the patient would push against the chairs and fall between them and the bed," she said.

Mrs Dickson, who did not appear at the hearing, admitted posing as a sister when she was in fact an enrolled nurse. She was found guilty of 13 charges of misconduct.

Susan Lea, matron of the nursing home, told the hearing that she was not aware of Mrs Dickson's methods on the night shift. She said: "At the time I did not realise what was going on, otherwise I would have stopped it immediately. When I approached her about it, she said everyone was gangling up against her and that she was under a lot of stress."

John Maher, counsel for Mrs Dickson, said: "She is 72 years old and trained many years ago and in my conversations with her, she told me that she thought her actions were always in the best interests of the patients."

"Mrs Dickson is not working at all now because of her health and her husband's health and she has no intention of returning to nursing or any other form of employment."



Day of memories: the new lifeboat, *The Four Boys* being launched yesterday at Seamen Cove, Cornwall, watched by the parents of the boys in whose memory it was named. The four, James Holloway, 11, Nicholas Hurst, 10, Ricci Lamden, 11, and Robert Ankers, 11, (clock-

wise from top left in photographs), were swept to their deaths at Land's End during a school trip in May 1985. The Duke of Kent, president of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, officially named the boat at a ceremony at Seamen Cove, close to Land's End. They raised about £100,000 towards the £450,000 needed for a 38ft Mersey class lifeboat. Yesterday



Poges middle school, Buckinghamshire. After their deaths their parents pledged to raise money towards a new lifeboat for Seamen Cove, close to Land's End. They raised about £100,000 towards the £450,000 needed for a 38ft Mersey class lifeboat. Yesterday

John and Julie Hurst, David and Christine Ankers, Jim and Barbara Holloway and Bob and Rita Lamden watched as the lifeboat slid down the slipway into the sea. Mrs Lamden said: "Once this boat has saved just one life we will know that our sons did not die in vain."

Orchid site threatened by homes scheme

By RONALD FAUX

RARE flowers and butterflies that make a stretch of grass-land a site of special scientific interest should not be allowed to stand in the way of plans to regenerate a Cumbrian town, a planning enquiry was told yesterday.

Cumbria County Council is supporting a development company's proposal to build 40 high quality houses on the site close to a £5 million yachting marina and housing development. Groups objecting to the plan include English Nature, the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth and Maryport Natural History Society. The site is home to the pyramidal orchid, purple broomrape and the small blue butterfly.

Thomas Shepherd, leader of the county's strategic planning group, told the opening day of the enquiry in Maryport that the housing scheme was important to the harbour development which in turn was a key factor in regenerating Maryport.

The enquiry continues today.

Two deny acid attack on woman

Two men accused of attacking a woman aged 74 with acid denied yesterday causing her grievous bodily harm with intent.

Anthony Langton, 22, and Jason Raby, 18, from Banbury, were remanded in custody by Oxford Crown Court which turned down an application for their trial to be moved to another court.

Joan Cooper was attacked at her home in Banbury two days after Christmas. Mr Langton also denied aggravated burglary, stealing items from the house and possessing a bottle as an offensive weapon.

Beach warning

Holidaymakers on West Country beaches face prosecution if they ignore lifeguard warnings and swim in dangerous conditions. Newquay council has already prosecuted one bather and a spokesman said a number of other seaside councils were to give beach patrols greater powers.

Bronze find

Bronze age artifacts including three axes and 22 ingots have been found under the sand at Freshwater East in Dyfed by a woman using a metal detector. The National Museum of Wales said the find was "of the first importance among Welsh late Bronze age metalwork".

Clean away

Thieves stole clothes worth £3 million from washing lines in South Wales last year. Swansea CID said: "These people are not just stealing knickers, they are stealing prestige label jeans and shirts."

Goal in sight

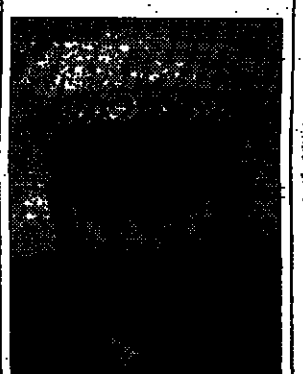
Olive Gilbert, aged 75, who has supported Halifax Town for 50 years but is unhappy about the team's penalty kicking record, will try out her own skill when she takes part in a penalty shoot-out before Saturday's home game.

Ponies slashed

Police are investigating a series of attacks on ponies, many children's pens, in Hampshire and West Sussex in which tails have been cut off and skin slashed.

Slow progress

Sybil Laird, a voluntary nurse, of Havant, Hampshire, has collected an Open University degree in European Studies started in 1975.



PC Wellman: "Rural theft is increasing"

PC puts wildlife first

By RONALD FAUX

HELPING toads to cross roads and advising on how to deal with a vandal blackbird are all in a day's work for PC Michael Wellman, the first full time wildlife and environmental protection officer with a British police force.

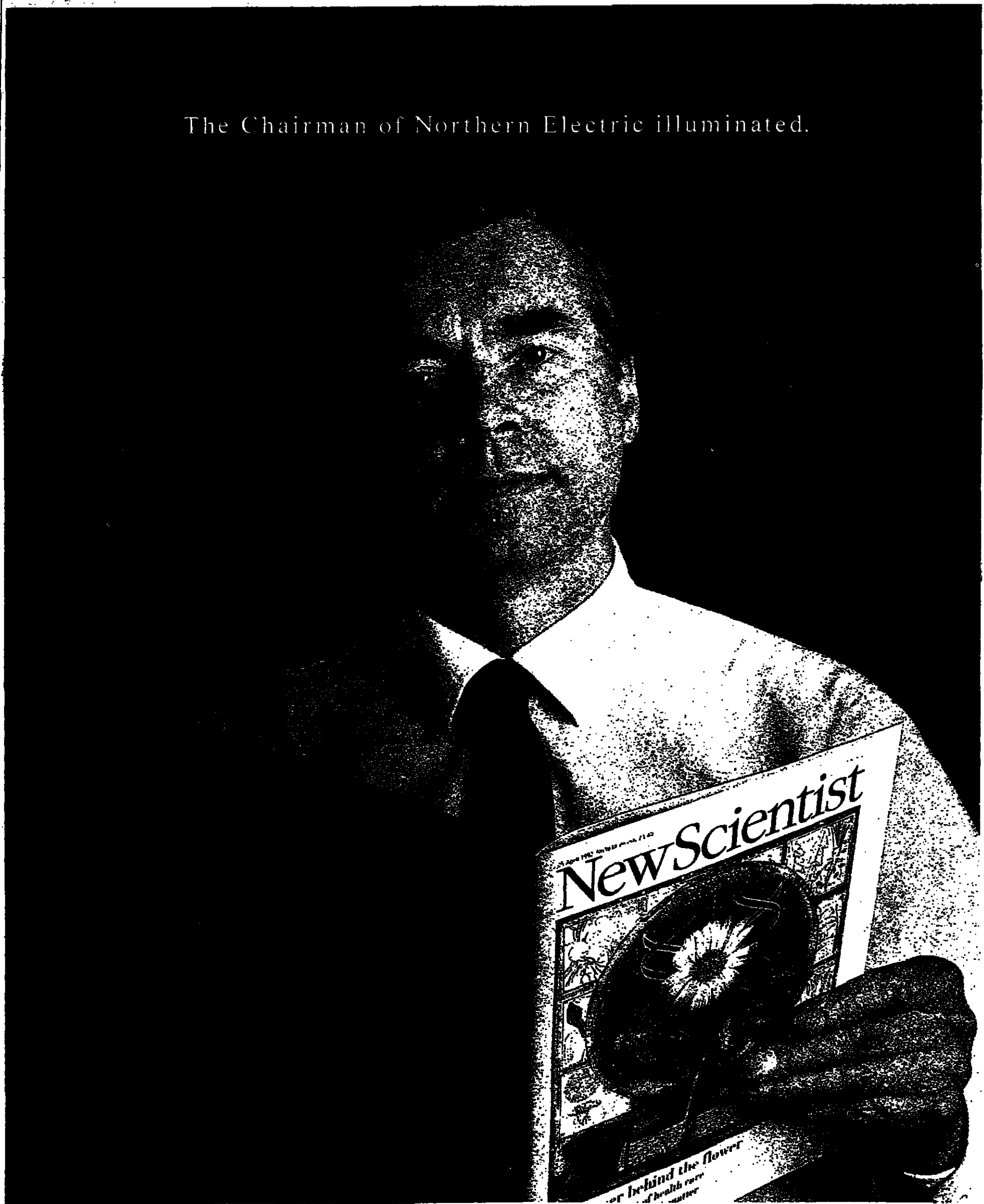
From his office at Rumcorn police station in Cheshire, PC Wellman, 41, works to protect the county's wildlife from the threats of poachers, badger diggers, egg thieves and chemical spills. His "beat" includes more than 30 game shoots and estates, and nine game fisheries. He also supervises 74 Poacherwatch schemes and other measures to reduce rural crime.

"It is a fact of life that Country Watch schemes are necessary these days because of the volume of thefts and vandalism in the countryside. I work with rural police officers advising on prevention measures such as marking equipment which makes tracing much easier and how best to secure property," he says.

PC Wellman was brought up in the Rift Valley in Uganda and worked on wildlife projects there before moving to Britain.

The most "obnoxious" cases he comes across are badger diggers, he says. The quieter side of his work has included helping to organise a safe passage across a roadway for toads en route for their spawning ground and advising a motorist whose newly sprayed car was attacked by a blackbird which insisted on pecking at its reflection in the black paintwork. The man took the law's advice and bought a garage.

The Chairman of Northern Electric illuminated.



MR DAVID MORRIS finds New Scientist an invaluable business tool. Each week it provides essential information on scientific and technological developments. Like many leading business figures he uses it to help with plans and decisions for the future. Shouldn't you be using it too?

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Now, in 1992 yet another landmark in the development of the computer has been reached.

ICL, which is part of the giant Fujitsu company of Japan and has recently merged with Nokia Data, the world renowned Nordic company, has just introduced a collection of Personal Systems which will extend the boundaries of PC use forever.

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In line with ICL's record as a supplier of genuinely user-friendly equipment (we were the first to separate the keyboard from the computer) all of the models in the collection have been designed with people in mind not unfeeling automatons.

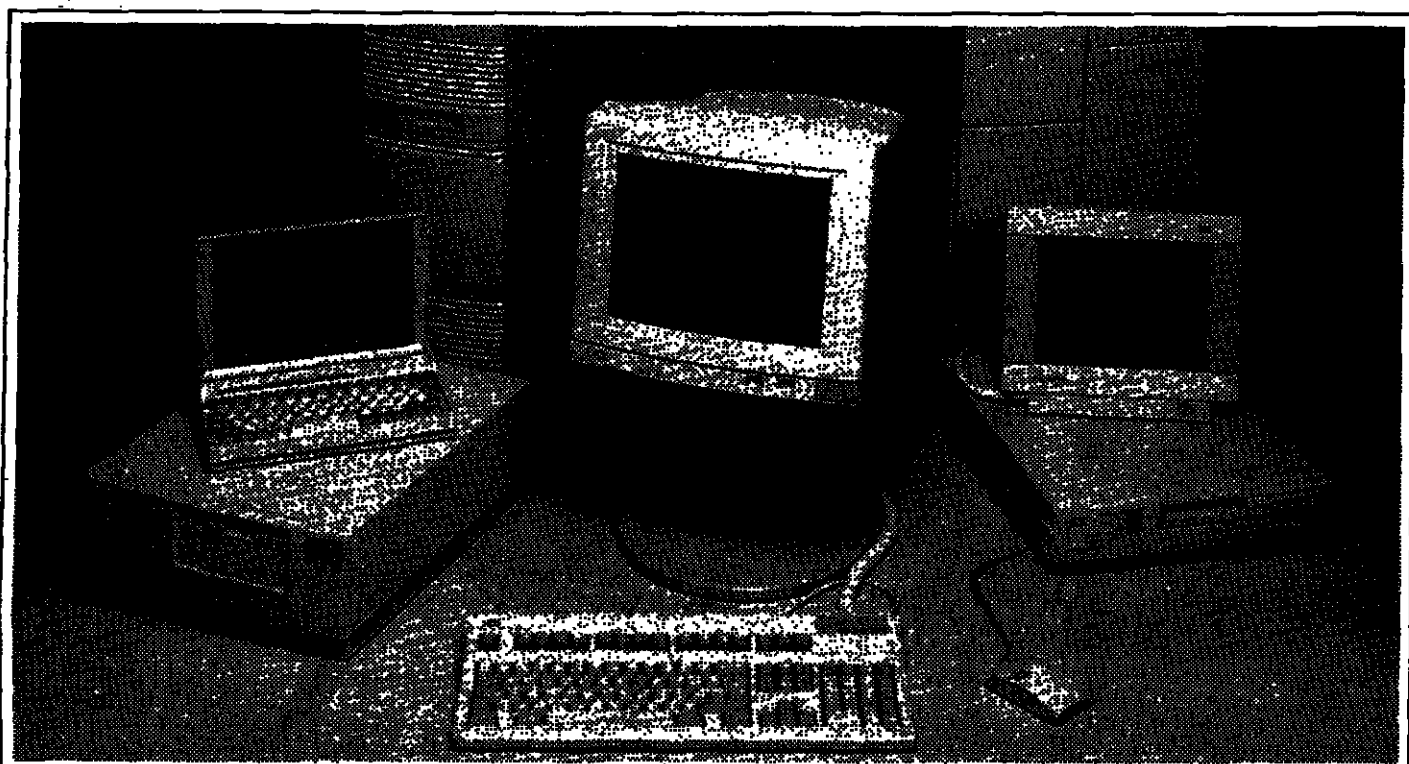
Hence the availability of high-resolution characters to reduce eye strain, along with anti-glare coatings on flat screens to cut down on distracting reflections.

While to reduce eye strain caused by screen flicker, we offer fast 70-100 Hz screens. (Most of

our competitors are happy with 60 Hz screens.)

Most important of all, you can choose a monitor which is held in position by something called an 'Ergo-arm'. This not only allows the screen to be tilted like other PCs, but also lets the user move it up and down, significantly improving their clarity of vision and reducing neck strain.

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The keyboard hasn't survived this re-think, either.

ICL's new curved keyboard has been developed to minimise muscle strain in the hands and forearms and to prevent painful constrictions of nerves, tendons and blood vessels in the wrists.

All these features have been specifically designed to increase productivity and job satisfaction amongst the people who actually work with PCs day in day out.

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And though a number of our competitors don't meet the proposed EC ergonomic standards, ICL models already exceed them.

Just to make our competitors even greener, 95% of every ICL PC is re-cyclable.

This responsive and hopefully responsible attitude to individual users is also extended to the companies we supply.

To the point that we're quite prepared to take our customers' needs all the way back to the production line.

And because ICL systems are upgradable, chances are you won't have to contemplate splashing out on a whole new set of hardware when your company grows.

Whatever the nature of the

worry, we're still working on it.

Our delivery people say they can deliver most orders big or small within 48 hours anywhere in the UK. They will even meet a specific delivery time. (We wouldn't go public on that unless we believed them.)

And they don't just dump the order on your doorstep. As part of our Gold Service, we can set up the machine and load the software at every desk in the organisation.

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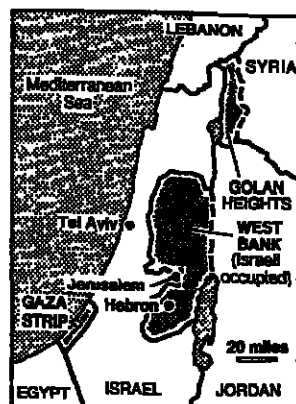
Plan for West Bank elections fails to satisfy Palestinians

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL has drawn up detailed plans to hold municipal elections in the occupied territories and could present them next week, when it resumes bilateral talks with Palestinian delegates in Washington.

According to senior Israeli officials, the plan would envisage holding the first elections in more than a decade in some or all of the main Palestinian population centres in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.8 million disenfranchised Arabs. But the proposal has been met with resistance from Palestinian delegates to the talks, who suspect the municipal elections could be an Israeli tactic to deflect from their demands for autonomy leading to Palestinian statehood.

However, the plan, which is reported to have the blessing of the defence ministry and Elyakim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli team negotiating with the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, could nevertheless breathe new life into the frozen peace talks, which have hardly progressed at all after six months of dialogue.



Although Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, has not altered his uncompromising negotiating position, that the occupied territories will forever be a part of Israel and that Jewish settlements will continue to grow on the captured lands, he would like to secure a concrete achievement in the negotiations before the June 23 general election.

Although his right-wing supporters are still firmly behind the Israeli leader, he has watched his popularity slide over the past months, in part because of public disaffection over his handling of the peace

negotiations which has alienated middle-ground and undecided voters.

The election proposal was drawn up by Major-General Danny Rothchild, the head of the Israeli civil administration for the occupied territories, who has encouraged elections over the past year to professional Palestinian bodies, such as chambers of commerce, as well as medical and legal associations.

During the 1970s, Israel allowed some Palestinian towns to elect their mayors, but they were later replaced by Israeli military authorities after they were accused of co-operation with the banned PLO. In 1980 two mayors were deported from Israel and two others were maimed in car bomb attacks by Jewish extremists.

Now, however, in the post-Gulf war climate marked by a dramatic fall in the number of Intifada (Palestinian uprising) incidents, Major-General Rothchild is reported to be interested in holding trial elections in the West Bank town of Hebron, which could be followed by similar polls in

Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza city, and other Palestinian urban areas.

Ironically, the plan's biggest opponents are not the hardline Jewish settlers, but the Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, who fear that the polls might be offered as an alternative to legislative elections and that the radical Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement, which is opposed to the peace process, could score significant victories in key towns like Hebron and Ramallah.

"Municipal elections are outside the parameters of the peace process," said Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman, who leaves with the delegation for Jordan today en route for Washington. "The Israelis want to confuse civic government with our call for elections to a legislative body."

However, a senior Israeli official said that, if the election offer was made next week, the Palestinians should accept it. "The Palestinians would be well advised to take what they can get now," he said.



Hot money: An angry Lebanese woman, her hat decorated with worthless Lebanese banknotes, burns a US dollar bill during demonstrations against worsening economic conditions by 25,000 people in Beirut yesterday. The protest marked the second time this week that thousands of angry workers, students and housewives had taken to the streets to call for the

resignation of Omar Karame's cabinet (Ali Jaber writes from Beirut). The protesters blame the Syrian-backed government for the rapidly depreciating value of Lebanon's currency and the galloping inflation which has sent the price of food and commodities soaring. The demonstration, organised by the General Labour Federation, overwhelmed central Beirut.

Afghan rebels prepare to govern

Mujahidin leaders give priority to military matters. Christopher Thomas reports

BENON Sevan, the United Nations special envoy to Afghanistan, told the country's most powerful insurgent leader yesterday that the Mujahidin had won the war and it was up to them to form a government if they wanted to.

"They are the ones who will have to live with it," he declared in the small town of Charikar, 30 miles north of Kabul, where he had had talks with Ahmad Shah Masood, the leader of Jamiat-i-Islami. Mr Masood is the most important political figure in the constantly changing kaleidoscope of rebel alliances. He made clear that he was ready to become president if that was the will of the people.

But first, he said, military matters needed to be settled. Forces from the rival Hezb-i-Islami Mujahidin group headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, had moved from the south to within 15 miles to Kabul.

Mr Masood, a Tajik, sat in a pleasantly furnished room with Mr Sevan, along with a breakaway army general and some assistants. He wanted peace, he said, and pointed out that the northern coalition of Mujahidin, army and militia, controlling the north of the country, had taken Charikar and Bagran, a neighbouring town, without difficulty. "They could now walk into Kabul any time they wished."

But he insisted that he wanted a negotiated settlement to avoid bloodshed, while at the same time "protecting" the capital from Mr Hekmatyar's forces. He claimed that several Pashtun rebel groups had joined the predominantly non-Pashtun coalition. He reiterated that Dr Najibullah, the former president who is sheltering in a United Nations office in the capital, would not be allowed to leave the country. "His head belongs to the people of Afghanistan," he declared. "The right to decide what happens to him belongs to the people."

Mr Masood said he hoped to negotiate the setting up of an interim Islamic government in Kabul. Mr Sevan said he welcomed the reassurance that Jamiat forces would not march into the capital, except peacefully.

Asked what was likely to happen to Dr Najibullah, Mr Sevan said: "That is not an issue I came here for. For me, that is just a secondary issue. The most essential issue to resolve today is the fate of Afghanistan." He was clearly anxious to play down the issue, which has become an acute embarrassment to the UN.

● Kabul: Jan Karisson, 39, an aid worker from Iceland working for the International Committee of the Red Cross, was shot dead yesterday near Kabul, diplomats said. (Reuters)

Fleeing dictators, page 12

Drummer smuggled heroin

Al Foster, the American jazz drummer, was sentenced in Tokyo to two years in prison suspended for three years for smuggling 1.21 grams of heroin into Japan. Foster was arrested in Tokyo last month after a three-city tour with the Herbie Hancock Trio.

Prince Karim Aga Khan, the spiritual leader and imam of Ismaili Muslims, has arrived in Uganda for talks with President Museveni about the return of property confiscated from thousands of Ismailis by Idi Amin, the former dictator.

Magic Johnson, the former Los Angeles Lakers star who quit professional basketball after being diagnosed HIV positive, will address Harvard medical school graduates on June 4 during the school's commencement ceremonies.

Alessandra Mussolini, below, the second world war Fascist dictator's granddaughter, has vowed to brighten up the Italian parliament and to occupy the seat used by her grandfather. "I want to wear something bright. I want to bring a bit of light into that greyness," the former small-part film actress, 30, said.



Militants in Algeria call for armed revolt

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ALGIERS

ALGERIA'S banned Islamic Salvation Front yesterday urged its fundamentalist followers to "move from words to rifles" in its first direct call for armed struggle since the authorities moved against it in January.

"To oppression, there is resistance, and we are prepared to sacrifice millions to save Algeria," wrote *Minbar el-Djoudoua*, a clandestine news-sheet published by the front. "After vain calls for dialogue, the people should move from words to rifles," it said.

Whether the publication was expressing the official position of the movement, which was banned on March 4 after thousands of arrests, among them top fundamentalist leaders, was not immediately clear. The front still issues communiqués stamped and signed by officials in hiding.

In one, issued in mid-March, it conceded that attacks on security forces could be the work of militant fundamentalists, as the authorities claim, but did not take re-

sponsibility for the violence. There have been approximately 50 deaths among the security forces since the military-backed rulers imposed a state of emergency on February 9. The authorities have begun posting photographs of wanted suspects on walls in urban areas.

A five-member council, the High State Committee, took power in January to thwart a fundamentalist election victory in parliament, ousting President Chadli Benjedid. The council yesterday announced the names of a 60-member consultative council, an advisory body to replace the dissolved parliament.

Members include Redha Malek, a former ambassador to London and Washington; Khalida Messaoudi, who is the president of the Association for the Triumph of Women's Rights; and academics and journalists.

The front on Tuesday reiterated its denunciation of the planned council, saying that it embodied "the shame of the arbitrary confiscation of the people's will."

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Afghan rebels prepare government

Mujahidin leaders give priority to army matters

Seven, the Taliban special envoy, said the mujahidin leaders were giving priority to army matters. The Taliban leaders were in a meeting in Kandahar, where they discussed the future of the country. The Taliban leaders were in a meeting in Kandahar, where they discussed the future of the country.

Gas chamber ordeal stirs passions on death penalty

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

The execution of Robert Alton Harris in the gas chamber at California's San Quentin prison, after four days of execution, has increased pressure in the United States for the death sentence to be performed in full public view.

Abortion debate rages

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

AS THE United States Supreme Court began to review a Pennsylvania law that seeks to restrict the availability of abortions, the temperature of the national debate on the issue rose sharply.

In Buffalo, New York, there were 150 arrests after fundamentalist pro-life demonstrators tried to force the closing of an abortion clinic. In Indiana, pro-choice activists mounted legal efforts to stop a Republican congressional candidate from airing commercials showing pictures of terminated fetuses.

Yesterday, Michael Bailey, a first-time congressional candidate in Indiana, defended his graphic advertisements. "I'm trying to show people that if you are not pro-life, you ought to be, and here is the reason why."

The demonstrations near the steps of the Supreme Court were vociferous but peaceful. Inside the court, the nine judges heard formal arguments from lawyers acting for Robert Casey, the Pennsylvania governor, and for the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Pennsylvania case may well result in the Supreme Court deciding that women do not have a constitutional right to abortion. Legal arguments yesterday frequently failed to concentrate on the specific question of Pennsylvania, and widened the debate to strike at or support the broader questions of a woman's constitutional rights on abortion.

hours after Harris died at 6.21am on Tuesday. Assemblyman Tom McClintock introduced a lethal injection bill which was followed up in the Senate. Four years ago his attempts to introduce such a bill failed after pressure by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Harris's execution for the killing of two San Diego teenagers in 1978 was the first in California, America's most populous state, for a quarter of a century and opened the way for the execution of nearly 330 more inmates on the state's death row. Pete Wilson, the California governor, would need to sign the new bill for it to take effect in time for the next execution, scheduled next month.

A non-profit television station in San Francisco sued for the right to televise Harris's death, arguing that the public had a right to see what was being carried out in its name. It lost the case.

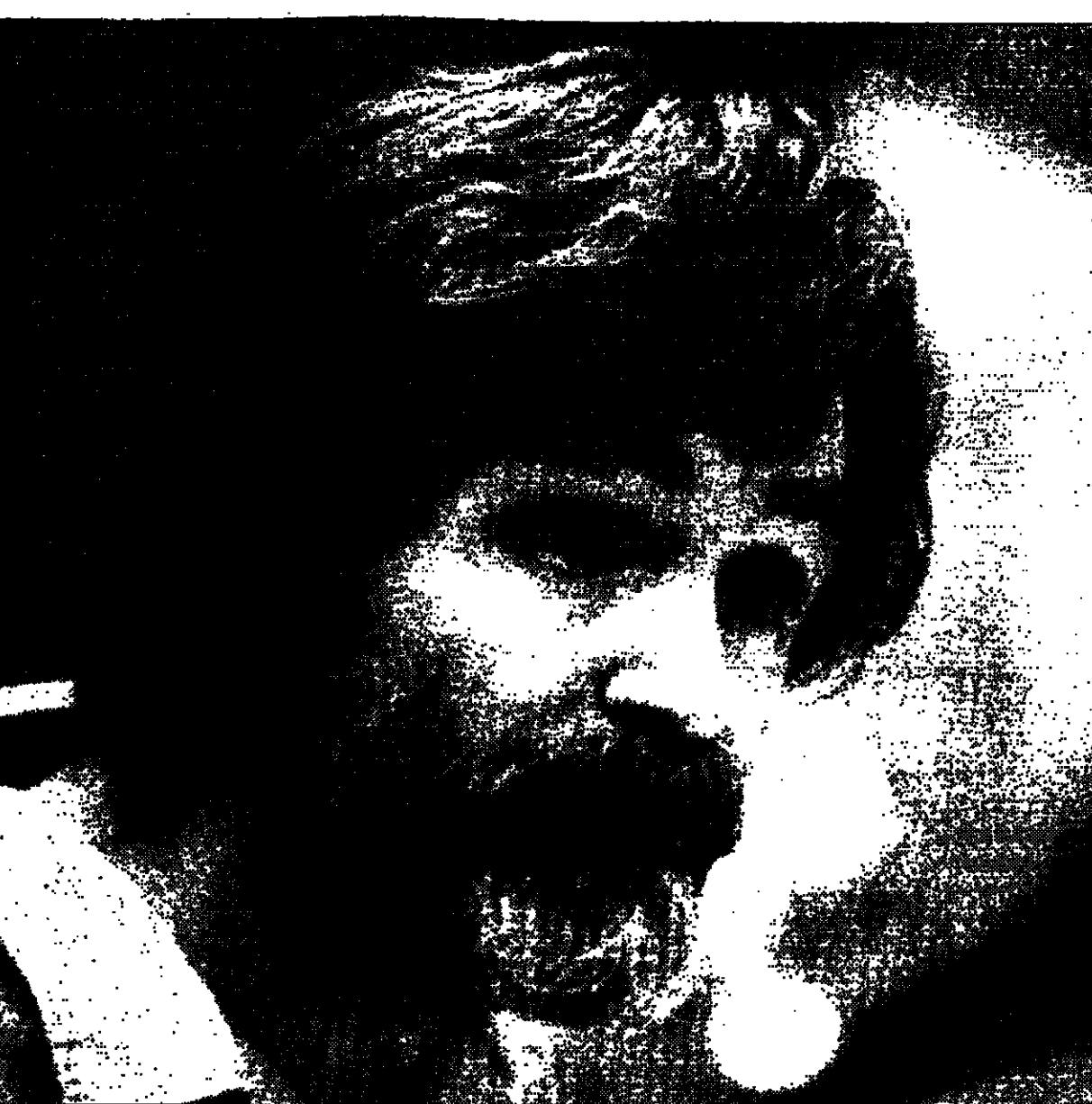
Another court ordered a videotape to be made of the execution because of a suit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union charging that California's use of cyanide gas amounted to "cruel and unusual punishment" outlawed by the American constitution. US district judge Marilyn Hall Patel ruled that the film could prove to be crucial evidence in the suit. State lawyers have challenged the reliability of witness reports on the suffering caused by poison gas. She specified that the tape be deposited under seal with the court and no copies be made unless ordered by a judge.

Only 17 official witnesses and several members of the victims' families were allowed to witness Harris's last minutes in the gas chamber. "This was torture," said Kevin Leary of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, who was one of the chosen witnesses. "I'm not sure of my stand on the death penalty any more."

Other witnesses said to look at Harris seven minutes to look at consciousness and 16 minutes to die after the cyanide gas was released. "If we believe the death penalty is just, we should make executions public," Sheryl McCarthy wrote in her column in *New York Newsday* yesterday. "We should carry them out in the public square, as was done in the early years of our country's history, and cheer the demise of miscreants who were a blight on society."



Wilson: could change method of execution



Parole plea: Charles Manson, who murdered Sharon Tate and eight others, appearing before a California parole board. His plea was refused. Manson was sentenced to death in 1969, but the state's supreme court ruled capital punishment unconstitutional in 1972 and his sentence was changed to life imprisonment

Perot poll scares the White House

President Bush's aides have masked their nervousness about an unexpected challenge, Jamie Dettmer writes

SHORTLY after signing ground-breaking civil rights legislation during his presidency, Lyndon Johnson turned to an aide and said: "I think we just delivered the South to the Republicans for a long time to come."

He was right. In the last 24 years only Jimmy Carter has managed to break the Republican hold in presidential elections on the old Confederate states.

The White House has shrugged off suggestions that anything will be different in the November elections, even though the Democrat challenger is almost certain to be a Southern governor, Bill Clinton. President Bush's aides insist that the Grand Old Party's grip on the Southern states will not weaken. But their confidence in the last 24 hours has masked a nervousness about a challenge they never expected.

On Tuesday, the wild card candidacy of Texan billionaire H. Ross Perot caused a few White House ears to miss a beat when an opinion poll suggested that the maverick entrepreneur would beat Mr Bush, as well as Mr Clinton, in Texas, the state the president likes to call home.

With 32 votes in the electoral college, the Lone Star state controls more than 10 per cent of the 270 votes needed to win the presidency. For the last three presidential elections it has been the focus of Republican efforts to win the South. Since the poll, a posse of guns has been unleashed on Mr Perot, who says he will run if his supporters get his

name down on the ballot in every state of the union. "I don't think it's surprising that he shows up in early polls as having a good degree of support," said Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman. "If elections were held in April, Michael Dukakis would be president," joked George W. Bush, the president's son, in a reference to his father's Democrat challenger in 1988. But within the nonchalance there was a hard message. "This is his honeymoon and we'll let him have it," said Mr Fitzwater.

Mr Bush, who was born in New England, has adopted Texas as his home state. He moved to Texas after the second world war and made his fortune in the oil business there. Despite ridicule in some quarters, the president likes to hark on about his Lone Star state identity. A defeat in Texas would be personally humiliating.

The Texas poll is further evidence that Mr Perot's populist, "let's clean up Washington" campaign is still riding high on the wave of national discontent with traditional politics.

Few now doubt that he will run. He has employed a New York pollster and has secured the services of his closest business associate and friend, the lawyer Tom Luze, as an unofficial campaign manager.

• **Duke withdraws:** David Duke, the one-time Ku Klux Klan leader, announced yesterday that he was quitting the presidential race and giving up his challenge for the Republican nomination.

Peru promised swift return to democracy

FROM CORINNE SCHMIDT IN LIMA

PRESIDENT Fujimori has promised to return Peru to democracy "in less than 12 months" after widespread international censure and internal threats to his government. He announced a timetable for reforms and a return to democracy while an Organisation of American States mission was visiting Peru.

The mission, headed by João Baena Soares, the OAS secretary-general, is charged with promoting democratic dialogue in Peru and reporting back to the OAS.

The president said his objective had never been to destroy democracy, but to make it function better. He announced a plebiscite to approve his reform programme on July 5. On August 31 the government will submit proposed constitutional reforms to a national debate.

On November 8, when municipal and regional elections are already scheduled, the country will also vote on the constitutional reform. Parliamentary elections will be held on February 28, 1993, and the new parliament installed on April 5, one year after Señor Fujimori shut down parliament and the judiciary.

Democrats in South Africa to soldier on

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's liberal Democratic party is resolved to pursue an independent line in post-apartheid politics, despite the defection of five of its senior members to the African National Congress.

The party is expected to close ranks behind its leaders at a parliamentary caucus today by reaffirming its credo as a moderate, centrist group between the ANC and the ruling National party. Party officials said there would be no formal expulsion of the rebels since they had effectively terminated their membership by joining another political organisation without the consent of the party's national council. James Selfe, the communications director, said: "They are no longer members of the Democratic party, so there is no need for us to expel them."

The defections were the most serious blow to the party since the Nationalists hijacked its policies by dismantling apartheid, but its leaders were not unduly perturbed. Peter Soal, the chairman for the southern Transvaal, said the party had breathed a collective sigh of relief at the departure of the dissidents. Anyone else who felt unhappy about endorsing an independent approach should "get out now so the rest of us can pursue the liberal, democratic values we were elected to promote."

Mr Selfe rejected suggestions that the Democrats were a spent force, saying the party's membership had increased by 12 per cent in the past year, principally among non-white communities. "We intend to remain independent, and to recruit members in a competitive, but not destructive, relationship with the ANC. Any suggestion that we might struggle up to the Nats is, on the record, bollocks," he said.

The party's philosophy remains as it was when it was set out by Zach de Beer, its leader, last year. "I am certainly not inclined to leave democracy in the hands of only the Nats and the ANC... We can build bridges. We can be honest mediators. These services are needed as never before," he said then.

Striking French dockers shut ports

Paris: Dockers went on strike at nine French ports yesterday to protest against government plans to reform work practices, union sources said.

Anticipating a strike call by the communist-led CGT union, they blocked access to the ports of Marseilles and Bordeaux on Tuesday night. The stoppage spread to seven other ports, including Bayonne, Nantes, Brest and Rouen. Dockers in Le Havre said they would begin their strike today. (Reuters)

Army leaves

Hong Kong: British troops have handed control of the border with China to the local police 25 years after being called to the frontier after an incursion by Chinese forces. The British Army is winding down its duties here ahead of 1997. (Reuters)

Shots fired

Prague: Police fired warning shots to disperse drunken German fans in Prague before their national team played Czechoslovakia in a football friendly. Twenty-seven people were deported to Germany, with more expected to go later. (Reuters)

Visit planned

Seoul: Hans Blix, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will visit Pyongyang and inspect North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facilities next month at the invitation of the government. South Korea's national news agency said. (AFP)

Poll date set

Suva: Fiji's first election since the 1987 military coup will be held from May 23 to 30, Qoroniast Bale, the elections chairman, said. An interim government under Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, the prime minister, has ruled since the coup. (Reuters)

Stunt opposed

Harare: Zimbabwe's national parks department has protested to its Zambian counterpart over proposals to allow bungee jumping from the 270ft high Victoria Falls bridge, considering it not to be a fitting activity to take place at a world heritage site.

Politicians keep lovers on tight leash during American election campaign

Shakespeare would have called them a pair of star-crossed lovers. He a Democrat, she a Republican. For some members in their parties their romance is ill-fated, even alarming. She denies she is under orders to stop seeing him but admits politics has got in the way. "There are days when I want to rip his face off," and their relationship is on hold, until the presidential election is over.

Fear and Love on the Campaign Trail '92 would be an apt title for the romance between James Carville, Bill Clinton's chief strategist, and Mary Matlin, the political director of President Bush's re-election campaign. The dangerous liaison between two of America's toughest political operators has been going on for months. Mr Carville, a high-spirited Cajun, enjoys teasing his Republican opponents by hinting, with an accompanying big smirk, that the romance is still very active. Mr Carville, whose nick-

The romance between the Democrat and Republican campaign directors has spread alarm in both their parties, Jamie Dettmer writes

name is the Ragin' Cajun, has a reputation as a lady's man and as a confirmed bachelor. At 47, his lifestyle is more akin to a college student's. His relationship with Ms Matlin, 38, started in January last year and immediately provoked comment. The *Washington Post* claimed last December that senior Republicans, fearing security breaches, asked Ms Matlin to keep her distance from Mr Carville for the duration of the election campaign.

Republican men should worry in another way about the relationship between Mr Carville and Ms Matlin. It is just the most prominent in what *The New York Times* calls an "epidemic of cross-dating". Nine times out of ten these bipartisan relationships in-

volve Democrat men stepping out with Republican women. This tendency goes all the way to the top. Dorothy Bush LeBlond, President Bush's daughter, is engaged to an aide employed by Richard Gephardt, the Democrat congressman who sought his party's presidential nomination in 1988. Mr Bush has remained calm about the engagement, even describing his daughter's fiancée as a "good golfer", one of Mr Bush's highest forms of praise.

In all, there are over a dozen significant bipartisan relationships. While Torie Clark, the Bush campaign's press secretary, puts the bipartisan cross-dating down to the fact that "there is a dearth of Republican men you'd want to

date", others see it as proof of how the hierarchies of both parties are in bed with each other. Pat Caddell, a political consultant to Jerry Brown, said it shows that there is only one party in the United States, the incumbency party.

Robert Squier, the Republican media consultant, thinks it is all a matter of Democrats desperate after losing three successive presidential races. "If you can't win it you marry it."

Other explanations include the idea that the Democrats are trying to replenish their gene pool and produce a candidate who can win. Ms Clarke, who is engaged to a Democrat, said she had received a mixture of "good-natured" ribbing and unfriendly anonymous telephone calls since making her comments about Republican men. Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, complained to reporters that "Torie took a shot at my manhood".

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NOT A CASE FOR MI5

No branch of modern government can so blind an inexperienced minister as the secret services. Hence John Major and his new home secretary, Kenneth Clarke, should be sceptical of the advice that primary responsibility for mainland anti-terrorism work should be transferred from the civilian police to MI5. On security matters, "something must be done" is bad counsel. That is all that the case for reshuffling the anti-IRA portfolio appears to mean. The future role, or lack of role, for the domestic and overseas intelligence services now that the Cold war is over is a completely different matter.

The old question is the best: what does the enemy most want to achieve? In the renewal of the mainland bombing campaign, the IRA wants to throw British security into disarray, sow confusion between its different agencies and demoralise the public. The least prudent response is thus to be panicked into measures which exaggerate the IRA's true threat or mis-state its character. It is not a military challenge on the battlefield; it is not aimed at undermining the state, causing anarchy or inciting disloyalty. The mainland campaign is to cause criminal damage and murder. Though the results may be tragic, the hazard to life and property represented by the IRA is infinitesimal. The proper response is for the police to track down those responsible and bring them to trial, as with any other criminal. That work has nothing to do with military intelligence and to imply otherwise is needlessly to glorify the IRA.

The internal Metropolitan Police document which has been leaked to *The Irish Times* appears superficially to add to the case for a transfer of anti-terrorism work to MI5. It records the view of senior London police officers in December that there was "little" intelligence available to them about the perpetrators of arson attacks on shops in Manchester and Blackpool, attributed to the IRA. There is no reason to think that the involvement of MI5 would improve matters. Senior police officers are hinting that the leak, more an embarrassment than a security breach, might be linked to MI5's current bid to take over some Special Branch functions.

At present counter-terrorist intelligence is collected by the local police on the spot and passed to the Special Branch at Scotland Yard which plays a national co-ordinating

role. After analysis, the intelligence is passed out to be acted on by the relevant local police forces. MI5 is obviously not going to be able to replace the police in the first and final steps in that process, nor can it replace the work of a local police force in responding to and investigating a specific IRA incident.

One assumption is that MI5 might be more effective in infiltrating IRA "active service units", as these gangs are too grandiloquently named. Police undercover work, both in Britain and in Ireland, does not have a high reputation among intelligence professionals. IRA units operating in Britain have proved largely resistant to any infiltration. Where infiltration has succeeded, conflicts of command and control between MI5 and the police can anyway have tragic results, as witnessed recently in Belfast. On the mainland, IRA gangs are designed on the sleeper system to minimise the risk of internal betrayal.

The only role for MI5 would be to substitute itself for Scotland Yard's central co-ordinating responsibility, and perhaps to be given the right, as MI5 appears to be hoping, to take operational charge of police work as and when it wishes. But in intelligence co-ordination and in joint operations, everybody needs to act together, best achieved where policemen are working with fellow policemen.

For all the flaws made evident in recent highly publicised miscarriages of justice, civilian policemen share a common code of practice and procedures for accountability. They do not expect to act above the law and when they do, the courts bring them to account. The Police Complaints Authority frequently uses one force to investigate another. Policemen have an increasingly sophisticated view of their relations with the community. They have clearly stated legal rights and duties, including the Police and Criminal Evidence Act, all of whose provisions ought to be extended to the investigation of alleged terrorist offences.

Britain's counter-terrorist legislation, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, is already draconian and illiberal. On top of it has been piled an edifice of costly hyper-security which does little but boost the ego of the terrorist. The IRA threat neither needs nor deserves such a response.

THE NEW PARIAS

The Serbian offensive in Bosnia-Herzegovina is nothing less than the invasion of an independent country. The bandit groups now shooting their way into Sarajevo are openly backed by the federal army. Whatever the denials in Belgrade, there is ample evidence that the Serbian government of Slobodan Milosevic is giving tacit support to the irregulars in Bosnia, and is doing nothing to restrain the gunmen from attacking Muslim and Croat targets.

The pattern of Serbian expansionism in Croatia is being repeated on a potentially far bloodier scale. The European Community and the United States have recognised Bosnian independence. Both have repeatedly warned Belgrade of their growing disquiet over Serbian actions. These warnings must now be translated into something more immediate and tangible. They should withdraw recognition of Yugoslavia.

Such a move would hurt Serbia, politically and psychologically. It would invalidate Serbia's claim to be the successor state of the Yugoslav federation, putting into question continued membership of the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Americans, after keeping their distance from the Yugoslav imbroglio, are now determined to halt what they see as Serbia's flouting of world opinion and international norms of behaviour. Their terse message conveyed to Mr Milosevic by Ralph Johnson, the State Department envoy, and their threat to make Serbia an "international pariah", are altogether more clear-cut than the floundering EC peace initiative. They lend weight to today's visit to Yugoslavia by Lord Carrington, who will also express the Community's exasperation at the escalation of fighting.

Until now withdrawal of recognition was tempered by the need for Yugoslav acquies-

cence in United Nations resolutions and CSCE votes. These restraints no longer apply. The UN now has its mandate, and despite lingering attachment to Yugoslavia among non-aligned countries, there is little support for Serbia as the legally constituted rump. The CSCE now has a consensus-minus-one formula which will enable it to ignore Yugoslav objections, making the threat of expulsion at next week's Helsinki discussions feasible.

The main objection, however, is that Serbia remains stubbornly immune to threats. The country's inflation rate is approaching 30,000 per cent, yet the government retains popular support. Neither the suspension of aid by the Group of 24 nations nor the threat of expulsion from the IMF will have any short-term effect, as Yugoslavia has already been cut off from almost all international aid. Serbs feel isolated and persecuted, and blunt threats may simply rally the population around the government. Pressure needs to be directed if possible at Mr Milosevic and the army, which remains the only potential body to enforce a ceasefire in Bosnia. Despite a hard core of Serbian nationalists, some army leaders see they have nothing to gain from backing the Serbian irregulars. They know that if the federal state of Yugoslavia is no longer recognised, the army's position becomes anomalous. Will Serbia pay their pensions?

The EC has few levers of pressure. America, because of its size, weight and post-Gulf influence, can do much more. Lord Carrington will tell Serbia that he is also sending the same warning to some hardliners in Croatia about meddling in Bosnia. Belgrade should cease its lies about non-involvement, heed his warnings and throw its efforts behind a ceasefire in Bosnia. The last country America branded an international pariah was Iraq.

SEX FOR SALE

Legislation on prostitution may reduce it but will never stop it. Like abortion, it will simply go underground. The questions are what laws will best protect the public from nuisance, women from exploitation and the community from diseases spread by prostitution.

Under the 1956 Sexual Offences Act, a prostitute is only committing an offence if she publicly solicits for clients or works in partnership with another woman. Keeping a brothel and living off "immoral earnings" are illegal. So though a prostitute may want to protect herself from the violence that plagues her profession, she cannot team up with others to seek protection.

To propose legalisation of brothels was once thought dangerously radical. Yet when Linda St Clair (of the "Corrective Party") commissioned a Mori poll, she found that 55 per cent approved of "small and discreet" legal brothels, with only 33 per cent disapproving. Now the Mothers' Union, an impeccable upholder of Christian values and family life, has decided to debate legalisation. The Bishop of Liverpool, chairman of the Church of England's board for social responsibility, has welcomed this debate.

Brothels have been legalised before. The Contagious Diseases Act of 1864 aimed to ensure that clean, healthy prostitutes were available to British servicemen. Police were given powers to arrest, forcibly examine and register any woman whom they had "good

cause to believe" to be a common prostitute. None of these terms was defined, nor were the police required to prove anything. The result was horrific. Many women were hauled off the streets and subjected to brutal examination. A 20-year campaign by the early feminist, Josephine Butler, finally forced the act's repeal.

Even today, feminists are split over legalisation. Like Butler many believe that prostitution degrades not just the prostitute but all women. Others retort pragmatically that if prostitution has to exist, better that it take place safely and hygienically.

They have a strong case. If brothels were made legal, prostitutes would be better protected. The owners would be able to provide insurance, hire security guards and offer health checks. The danger of catching the HIV virus can never be eliminated. It can lurk undetected for up to three months after it has been contracted. But the risk can at least be lessened by regular tests. Meanwhile, prostitutes and brothels would have to pay tax like any other business.

The problem remains of how to minimise the disturbance legalised brothels can cause to the rest of society. Other countries have set up zones, away from residential areas, in which brothels are allowed to operate. That would remove prostitutes from the street — where the public most objects to them — and end the nuisance of kerb-crawling too. The Mothers' Union would surely approve.

Precedents on choice of Speaker

From Lord Jenkins of Hillhead

Sir, Much of the discussion about the new Speaker of the House of Commons seems to me to be conducted on an assumption which is only half true. The traditional position, it is suggested, is that a governing party elects from its own ranks and that governments therefore have one of their own supporters (even if one who tries to become impartial) in the chair.

The former assumption is accurate, the latter almost the reverse of the truth. This is because of two changes: 1. Governments used to have a strong tendency to alternate. 2. Speakers used to resign before and not at the end of a parliament.

Thus Speaker Brand, a Liberal, was elected within two years of the 1874 general election and presided over the House during the six years of the main Disraeli government. Speaker Peel (Liberal) was elected in the penultimate year of the second Gladstone government and presided over the House for six years of Salisbury government.

Peel was then replaced by Speaker Gully, a third Liberal, who was elected three months before the 1895 general election, and presided during ten years of Conservative government. He in turn was replaced in the dying days of the Balfour government by Speaker Lowther (Conservative), who presided over ten years of Liberal and six years of coalition government.

Then came Speaker Whitley, a Lloyd-George Liberal, whose eight years were mainly Conservative, with nine months of Labour. Speaker Fitzroy (Conservative) was true to form in being elected in the last year of a parliament, but not in having mainly majorities of his own party over which to preside.

Fitzroy died in office, so the date of his replacement by another Conservative, Speaker Clifton Brown, was irrelevant. What was not irrelevant however was that Clifton Brown presided over both parliaments of the Atlee government, but then upset the pattern by remaining Speaker until the 1951 election.

That was much of the reason for a contested election 41 years ago. It was conducted with some bitterness, although complicated by the fact that the Conservatives had a good candidate in Speaker Morrison and the Labour party rather a bad one. But it upset the balance which has not since been wholly restored, and the issue is now further complicated by modern governments' horror of by-elections, even in the seats of retiring Speakers.

The "tradition", however, is far from suggesting that there would be anything inappropriate about a non-Conservative Speaker in this Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
St Amand's House,
East Hendred, Oxfordshire.
April 22.

Unknown Southland

From Mr John Burton

Sir, I should like to request Mr Hans Doeleman (letter, April 11) to give a little more credit to the Iberians for the discovery of the Unknown Southland.

On Espiritu Santo we do not forget that it was a Portuguese in the service of the Spanish Crown, Pedro Fernandez de Quiros, who on May 1, 1606, discovered and briefly colonised our island, naming it Tierra Australis del Espiritu Santo.

A great Englishman, James Cook, certainly tidied up the geography later, but all these so-called discoveries post-date our early Melanesian explorers by about 5,000 years anyway.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURTON,
Northern District Hospital,
Luganville, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu.
April 21.

Trappings of English

From Mr Eric Adler

Sir, My daughter has begun to teach English to foreign students visiting Britain. She has the difficult job of explaining that apparent opposites in English may sometimes have the same meanings. For example, marriages can break up or down, court cases are sometimes said to be open and shut, financiers can be tied up or tied down. And there are others.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC ADLER,
36 Baxendale, Whetstone, N20.
April 21.

Ackland revival

From Mr John Thaxter

Sir, Harry Eyre's otherwise excellent review of *A Dead Secret*, revived by Roger Redfern at Richmond Theatre (Life & Times, April 15), compounds the myth that the arrival of the angry young men at the Royal Court in 1956 silenced its playwright, Rodney Ackland.

In fact the play, written in 1957 not 1934, was Ackland's second biggest post-war hit. Directed by Fith Banbury, it opened at the Picturedrome in May 1957 and ran for 212 performances with Paul Scofield triumphant in the central role.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Thatcher 'blunderbuss off target'

From Lord St John of Fawsley

Sir, Your reasoned leading article of today puts Mrs Thatcher's reported remarks on her successor in their proper context. In fact both barrels of the blunderbuss aimed at the prime minister by his predecessor rather missed the mark (report, April 21).

To declare that Mr John Major is not his own man directly after he has made electoral history by winning a fourth election victory despite the Jeremiahs of the pundits and the polls, the wobbles of his own supporters and the inheritance of the poll tax, bust-after-boom, and anti-European chauvinism with which he was burdened, is absurd. If after all that, Mr Major is not his own man, who is?

Of course, no man (or woman) is an island in politics any more than elsewhere and Mr Major is clearly the heir of Mrs Thatcher's wider ownership policy which was crucial in winning the election, just as she in her turn inherited it from Mr Heath and then Mr Harold Macmillan. Indeed, the very phrase "property-owning democracy" goes back to the premiership of Sir Anthony Eden.

The point of the succession to Mrs Thatcher was that it put an end to the disproportionate emphasis on one strain of the rich and varied legacy which constitutes the Conservative inheritance, namely Gladstonian liberalism, and enabled the Conservative party to take advantage of its whole tradition, including that of consensus and community.

The return came just in time. The Conservative party, like the Church of England, is comprehensive or it is nothing. When it seeks to define one part of its tradition, exalting it at the expense of another, disaster threatens. As for "Majorism", it does not and

should not exist and the prime minister has done his best to discourage his more zealous supporters from inventing it.

Yours faithfully,
ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY,
House of Lords.
April 22.

From Mr Cyril Bryan

Sir, The prime minister can surely now ask of Mrs Thatcher, "is she one of us?"

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL BRYAN,
16 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

From Mr Dudley Poplak

Sir, As far as I am concerned Majorism is the acceptable face of Thatcherism.

Yours faithfully,
D. POPLAK,
The Studio,
11 Cheyne Gardens, SW3.

From Mr Frederick W. Peacock

Sir, Margaret Thatcher publicly chides her successor, as did Edward Heath before her. Can these occasional displays of sour grapes have anything to do with the personal chagrin experienced by both when rejected by their party?

Redundancy, of course, affects people in many walks of life. Perhaps in the Queen's Speech John Major could propose a counselling agency for all those displaced by Tory policies, ex-prime ministers included.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK W. PEACOCK,
8 North Jesmond Avenue,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
April 21.

Art funding

From Mr Frank Hansford

Sir, I am sorry to see Richard Cork ("Art sales of the century", April 18) hanging his obsession with state funding of art purchases on Andrew Lloyd Webber's recent purchase of a Canaletto. He says that the Tate's annual £1,815,000 is "derisory", the National Gallery's annual £2,750,000 has been "frozen since 1985", and our great museums have suffered "starvation", for which Mr Major's new government must "make amends".

As an unrecognised modern artist I believe Mr Cork would better serve British art by advocating the ending of state purchasing altogether. The Tate, the National Gallery and all our museums are filled to overflowing with "Old Masters" and state funding will only purchase yet more and by so doing encourage people like Mr Lloyd Webber to do the same.

The way to save our heritage of such "Old Masters" is to abolish inheritance tax so that their owners can afford to retain them in this country.

Art is a vibrant, living, human creation and what is really wanted in British art is for it to escape from its present worshipping of "Old Masters". The modern camera can now reproduce likenesses of human form and landscape better than a human hand, so what an artist needs to do to create real art is something completely different. What is seen by the artist's eye must now be transmuted by the artist's vision and design into something new.

Some of us are trying to do just this but whilst Mr Cork only sees a Raphael and a Titian and other "Old Masters" painted many centuries ago in his "resplendent collections" and ignores what is currently happening today, however unworthy it may be in comparison, British art will continue to stagnate and our budding young artists given false models.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK HANSFORD,
Alexander Udolf Gallery,
20 St Mary's Meadow,
Wingham, Canterbury, Kent.
April 18.

Oasis of peace

From Mr David Baxter

Sir, Richard Beston's report from Jerusalem (April 17) rightly highlights the sectarian conflict and excessive ornamentation which characterise the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Far from being a place of peace and inspiration, the shrine offers little more than an assault on spiritual sensitivity.

In contrast the Garden Tomb, just north of the Damascus Gate, is a place of serenity and quiet reverence. It has rightly been described as an oasis of peace.

The Times first printed letters on

this subject exactly 100 years ago when the Garden Tomb property was being proposed for purchase. At the time your leader writer (October 8, 1892) rejected the authenticity of the Garden location.

When I visited both sites last November I came away with no doubt as to which could best claim to be the place of Christ's crucifixion, burial and glorious resurrection. The Garden Tomb, free from noise and imagery, offers the visitor a special opportunity to experience the "still, small voice" of the Holy Spirit.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAXTER,
29 Ebbisham Drive, Norwich, Norfolk.

VAT concession

From Mr Alan Bemrose

Sir, The publicity given to English Heritage's recent "Buildings at risk" survey emphasised the size of the problem of listed buildings. However, English Heritage grants, both welcome and essential, are generally depreciated by having to cover VAT on repairs and professional fees. It is ironic that the government grant-in-aid to English Heritage, from which grants to listed building repairs come, should in part go straight back to government via VAT payments.

Although it seems unclear whether the new national heritage ministry has any responsibility for the built heritage, surely now, at the start of this period of stable government, is the appropriate time to consider a worthwhile reduction, if not zero-rating, in VAT charged on repairs of listed buildings. The loss of VAT would be insignificant and there are similar concessions in many member states of the European Community.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BEMROSE (Chairman),
Derbyshire Historic Buildings Trust,
1 Greenhill, Wirksworth, Derbyshire.

Social graces

From the Reverend Dr Christopher Sugden

Sir, So Sir Kingsley Amis is persuaded to forgo saying grace at his own birthday party (Diary, April 18). Who are these non-Christians who would be insulted? Are they Muslims and Jews, who also honour the God of Abraham and Moses? Are they secularists, pluralists, who proclaim tolerance for all beliefs and who undoubtedly would protest at cultural insensitivity and even racism if Muslims or Jews were prevented from saying grace at an occasion they were hosting?

Were the protesters being inconsistent or were the publishers inaccurate in their understanding of their audience? Perhaps we need a book of etiquette (and justice) on such matters for the Nineties which will help avoid such misplaced intolerance as Sir Kingsley suffered.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SUGDEN,
112 North Hinkley Lane, Oxford.

Toil and soil

From Mrs Judith R. Oddy

Sir, Question: If one headmaster takes two hours to weed each of four garden beds (letter, April 20), how long would it take 24 children?

Answer: One short lesson in environmental studies.

Yours sincerely,
JUDITH R. ODDY,
51 Christchurch Avenue, N12.

From Mrs Bridget Rose

Sir, Mr C. L. Kirch, as acting head of horticultural studies, should assign the responsibility for weeding his flower beds to his pupils, who would

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Business looks to economy's revival

From Sir Allen Sheppard and others

Sir, On March 17 you published a letter from us urging that the spirit of enterprise, which was reborn in this country in the 1980s, must not be stifled.

The election is over and the political uncertainty has ended. It is now up to all of us in business to show what enterprise can really achieve.

If we continue to think and talk in terms of "when the recession ends", we shall succeed only in prolonging it. Instead, we should talk exclusively in terms of "the recovery" — and act accordingly.

The business community must take the lead in restoring confidence and optimism. With boldness and determination, we can and will make recovery a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Yours faithfully,
ALLEN SHEPPARD
(Chairman, Grand Metropolitan),
ALEX ALEXANDER,
JOHN BAIRSTOW
(Queens Moat House),
PETER CATESBY (Vaux),
ROBERT CLARKE (United Biscuits),
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20 St James's Square, SW1.

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JOHN NEILL (Unipart),
ERIC PARKER (Trafalgar House),
BRIAN H. PEARCE (Pearce Signs),
ALAN POND (Oakstead Holdings),
ERIC POUNTAIN (Tarmac),
NEIL SH

OBITUARIES

VÄINÖ LINNA

Väinö Linna, Finnish novelist and author of the realistic war epic known in the English-speaking world as *The Unknown Soldier*, died at Kangasala, central Finland, on April 21 aged 71. He was born at Uusikaupunki, south of Tampere, on December 20, 1920.

FINNISH literature proper, apart from the *Kalevala* and other epics and folk tales, is not really much older than the Russian annexation of Finland in 1809. Before then it was dominated by Swedish, the language of the ruling class. In the death of the novelist Väinö Linna it has lost one of the few undoubted stars of its still-short but always vivid life. His *Tuntumaton sotilas* (1954), translated into English in 1957 as *The Unknown Soldier*, sold more copies (to date 900,000) than any other Finnish novel has ever sold, in a country of under five million. Set during the second phase of the Russo-Finnish war which began after the invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany in June 1941 it graphically described the struggle in the forests of Karelia from the standpoint of a platoon of Finnish machine-gunners, with unsparring delineation of both character and incident.

Linna was born in southern Finland, thirty miles south of the industrial city of Tampere, where he lived and worked for much of his life. Indeed, like two other notable Finnish working class writers, Toivo Pekkanen and Olavi Siipainen, he came to literary prominence almost straight from the factory workbench.

After starting life as a farm labourer he had gone to Tampere in 1938 to work as a general handyman in Finland's largest cotton factory. With a break for war service he was to work there until 1955 when the success of *The Unknown Soldier* emancipated him from his labours as a mechanic. In the meantime he availed himself of the educational opportunities offered by the remarkable working class intellectual movement associated with the Tampere



Library. He always lived up to his description as a working-class writer, and indeed became one of the leading examples of this in Finnish literary history.

But war intervened in this process of formal self education (his figures nevertheless provided a priceless education of a quite different sort). When the Russians invaded Finland in November 1939 Linna was called up into the machine-gun company of a conscript regiment. He fought throughout the "Winter War" of

1939-40 in which the Finns withstood the might of the Red Army for four months before suing for peace, and during the "Continuation War" of 1941-44.

After his discharge from the Finnish army at the end of these wars Linna went back to his factory as a manual worker. Two early novels, *Päämäärä* ("The Goal", 1947) and *Musta rakkaus* ("Black Love", 1948) were quite well received but did not attract a great deal of attention. Then, in 1954, he dropped the

bombshell of *The Unknown Soldier*.

This is the story of a grunting common soldier, a very ordinary man, serving in the Continuation War which the Finns embarked on to reclaim 16,000 square miles of territory, notably the emotive district of Karelia, which had been wrested from Finland by the Russians in March 1940 and which was eventually to be ceded to Russia again as the Soviet army drove Germans (and Finns) eastwards in 1944. Much depends, in this undoubtedly classic, upon peasant humour and subtle nuances of dialect — Claude Sylvian was given the prize for the best French translation of 1956 for his truly masterly rendering of it as *Les Soldats inconnus*.

The real nature of army life had been depicted before in Finnish fiction, in particular by Pentti Haanpää, but as a presentation of the impact of war on ordinary people, with its skilful and frequently humorous use of dialogue, *The Unknown Soldier* has few rivals in post-war European literature. Its sales were helped by the cascade of criticism that was poured upon it by polite society, certain sections of which could not accept the notion that soldiers could be so disenchanted and, as they saw it, cynical and disgusting. In particular the officer class in the post-war Finnish army was not much enamoured of Linna's portrayal of its behaviour under the pressures of war and bitter cold of winter.

But *The Unknown Soldier* eventually won admission in Finland, not only in learned circles but among "ordinary" people — notably veterans who had served in the ranks during the Russo-Finnish conflicts — for its integrity and authenticity. The acclaim that accrued to it was due not least to the character of the protagonist: Linna's soldier is a clear-thinking, responsible individual; his uncompromising realism thus helped to dispel the false stereotype of the uneducated Finn as a mere "savage", which was then prevalent in a very divided country whose governments were (on the whole) more intelligent and recon-

ciliatory than the factions they ruled. The book was translated into 25 languages and successfully filmed in Finland.

It is a myth that the Finnish civil war of 1917-18 was a taboo subject until mid-century; but its causes had seldom been adequately analysed in fiction. In the trilogy that is probably Linna's masterpiece, *Talvisota Pohjanlahden alla* (1959-62), "Here Under The Polar Star", he more than merely touched on this subject, for the novel illustrates, by means of the story of a tenant farmer's family, a vivid cross-section of social change in Finland between the late nineteenth century and the years after 1945.

With his contemporary Lauri Viita, Linna was the first in Finnish literature to get inside "the minds of the masses" and he did this without any marked degree of tiresome theoretical commitment. He was wholly a traditionalist and a realist and in no sense an experimentalist like the slightly younger Veijo Meri, a subtler and more literary novelist holding somewhat the same point of view.

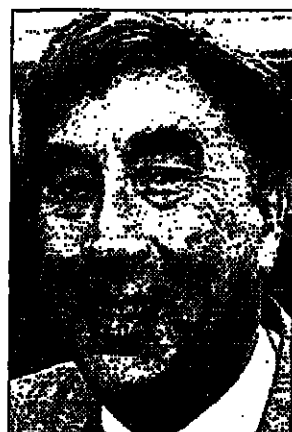
Perhaps Linna lacked the delicacy and imaginative power of Pentti Haanpää, the greatest Finnish novelist of modern times, or of his successor Meri, but in his use of the vernacular and his earthy humour he remains unsurpassed.

Able to free himself from factory work through his literary success, Linna bought a small farm in central Finland where he combined working on the land with his writing. But he maintained his links with industrial Tampere, where a stage version of *The Unknown Soldier* became a great success on the outdoor stage of the Tampere Workers' Theatre. Linna himself remained an unassuming individual to the end, enjoying simple manual tasks on his farm (he never considered himself as more than an "amateur" farmer) as much as the acclaim he received from his literary work.

In 1945 he married Kerttu Seuri, who, with their two children, survives him.

APPRECIATIONS

Frankie Howerd



WE SHOULD not overlook in the tributes that have so rightly been paid to him (obituary April 20), Frankie Howerd's enthusiastic and generous participation in live entertainment shows for the Armed Forces. With ENSA's successor organisation CSE (Combined Services Entertainment), Mr Howerd took part in shows in Korea, Borneo, Germany, Cyprus, Gan, Singapore and, repeatedly, in Northern Ireland.

He was among the first to volunteer to take part in entertainment scheduled for the Falkland Islands: it was only illness that prevented him making the long journey.

There was nowhere Frankie Howerd would not go: danger seemed irrelevant to him. To his audiences, taking a short break from

their often exceptionally hazardous duties, his humour (frequently risqué but always thoroughly acceptable) brought not only laughter and relaxation, but that much-needed "breath of home" from a star who shone so brightly in the entertainment firmament.

General Sir Geoffrey Howlett

Benny Hill



SHORTLY after the last world war my brother George and I presented touring revues which visited all the main towns in the UK.

One of the stars was Reg Varney and we employed Benny Hill (obituary, April 22) as his straight man. He was also contracted to do a ten minute act in the revue himself.

Every Tuesday, after the show had opened in a new town, Benny phoned me: "Mr Black, you've got to take me out of the show as my act got the bird again last night." My brother and I persuaded him to persevere with his act (if the truth be known, if we had got rid of his act we would have had to contract another and this would have added to the expense).

Persevere with his act he did and I am sure that it was experiences like that which were of such value to him when he became undoubtedly one of the funniest men on television of our time.

Alfred Black

Edward Smouha

READING Edward Smouha's obituary today (April 14) reminded me vividly of a small incident during the second world war. Rommel was at El Alamein, there was a run on the banks and I was weekend duty officer at Air HQ in Jerusalem. Following instructions from Cairo, I met their messenger outside Barclays DCO, Jerusalem, to receive an important delivery. At 12 noon, a sandy figure complete with topie and fly swat arrived in a jeep, introduced himself as Squadron Leader Edward Smouha and would I sign for three packing

cases, which he proceeded to dump on the pavement. "What's inside?" I enquired. "A million pounds in notes specially flown from Britain." Off he went in a cloud of dust presumably to return to Cairo across the Sinai Desert. Fortunately, there was a phone box in sight but it took some four hours to locate the bank manager. When he'd completed his Sunday afternoon round of golf, he arrived to relieve me of my burden. I'd never been so glad to see anyone in my life! What would that consignment be worth today — 50 years later? Some £19m according to the Bank of England.

Donald Box

Ronald Eyre

YOUR excellent description (April 10) of Ronald Eyre's major contribution to the wider theatrical world did not make it clear that his first directing experience with the BBC was for schools television, for which he directed plays as varied as Brecht's *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, Betti's *The Queen and the*

Rebels, and his own *The Victim*.

That and his *Z Cars* script *Window Dressing* were published by Longman Imprint Books for schools and widely studied for literature examinations by 16-year-olds. He was a pioneering and brilliant figure in bringing the study of television as a dramatic art form into the country's classrooms.

Prof Michael Marland

PRINCE TEYMURAZ BAGRATION

Prince Teymuraz Bagration, great-great-grandson of Tsar Nicholas I (Tsar of Russia, 1825-55), who escaped from the Russian revolution to devote most of his life to aid political refugees, died of a heart attack at his home in New York on April 10 aged 79.

He was born Prince Teymuraz Konstantinovich Bagration-Moukhransky in Pavlovsk, near St Petersburg.

DESCENDED from two royal houses in what was to become the Soviet Union, Teymuraz Bagration lost many of his relatives in the Russian revolution of 1917. But his parents — his mother was a Romanov and his father a member of the Georgian dynasty — escaped with him to Switzerland in 1919. From there the young Bagration was taken to Yugoslavia, where he graduated from the Royal Yugoslav Military Academy in 1923 and married Catherine Raichich, a granddaughter of the Yugoslavian prime minister.

After ten years of service with the Yugoslav forces, including combat in the second world war and a spell with the French underground, Bagration served in royal chancelleries in Paris and London before being recruited by Countess Alexandra Tolstoy, daughter of the novelist, to

join a foundation she had created to help refugees from the Soviet Union.

Beginning as a field officer in Beirut, he moved to the foundation's Manhattan headquarters in 1949 and became successively executive secretary, executive director and chief executive, before assuming the role of president which he held until his death.

Under Bagration's control the Tolstoy Foundation extended its activities to serve refugees from many other countries, including Tibet, Chile, Uganda and Cuba. Its offices expanded to 18 other locations across the United States and Europe, the Middle East and South America. Bagration was a longtime board member of CARE, the refugee organisation, and the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service. He was also a founder member of Interaction, a co-alignment of 100 charitable organisations working abroad, and of the council of relief agencies responsible for shipping food to Germany after the war. He was president of the American branch of the Orthodox Palestine Society and a member of the Georgian Eastern Orthodox Church.

After his first wife died in 1946, Bagration married the former Princess Irina Czernichev-Besobrasov, who survives him.

Giorgos Zambetas

GIORGOS Zambetas, 67, a musician and composer of popular Greek bouzouki music, has died aged 67.

Zambetas was widely popular in Greece and among Greek immigrants abroad. His music was often comical and dealt with the day-to-day frustrations of the common man. He appeared in many Greek films of the 1950s and 1960s.

GRAND DUKE VLADIMIR

Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, head of the Romanov imperial family overthrown in 1917, died in Miami on April 21 aged 74. He was born in Borgo, Finland, on August 30, 1917.

THROUGHOUT his life Vladimir Kirillovich nursed the hope that one day he might be Tsar of all the Russias. A tall man with the bearing of a Cossack, he spoke fluent but old-fashioned Russian, having never set foot in the country of his royal forefathers until November last year, following the collapse of communism. It was then that he travelled to St Petersburg to attend the ceremonies marking the reinstatement of the city's Romanov name, describing the moment as one of "incredible joy".

Vladimir Kirillovich was the third child and only son of Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich and Victoria Feodorovna de Saxe Cobourg, a granddaughter of Queen Victoria. His father was a first cousin, and the closest surviving male relative, of Nicholas II following the June 1918 massacre of the Tsar and most of the royal family.

A year earlier as the revolution was beginning, the Grand Duke Kirill had fled with his two daughters and his pregnant wife to Finland where Vladimir was born. In 1924, when it had been established to the satisfaction of all but a few diehards that the imperial family had been murdered, the Grand Duke Kirill issued a manifesto proclaiming himself the head of the House of Romanov and the legitimate pretender to the throne of Russia, "Emperor of all the Russias".

The exiled family settled in Saint-Briac, France, where at the age of 16, in accordance with Russian law, Vladimir came of age, swearing an oath of fealty to the Grand Duke. He was educated privately and then at Paris's Russian Lycée and London University and could speak fluent French, German, English and Spanish as well as Russian.

In 1938, on the death of his father, Vladimir issued his own proclamation laying claim to the throne although, unlike his father, he said he would not "for the present" use the imperial title, preferring to be addressed as Grand Duke. A year later he returned to Britain and began working in a machine factory near Peterborough "to experience personally the life of a factory workman."



The job was arranged for him by Lord and Lady Astor and he worked under the pseudonym "Mikhailoff", the same name that Peter the Great had adopted while working in the royal shipyards in Delphoi.

He remained in France throughout most of the second world war. At one time it was rumoured that he had received emissaries from Hitler attempting to negotiate his return to a puppet throne in Russia but the rumours were generally regarded as without foundation as Vladimir was fiercely opposed to Nazi policy towards Russia. Then, as the allied landings became imminent, he was obliged by the German authorities to move eastwards. At one time, he later recalled, he found himself in a village with the Soviet army advancing fast towards him. "The prospect of meeting them," he said, "was most uncomfortable."

Instead, armed with a safe conduct pass from the German authorities, he motored down alone to a village in the westernmost tip of Austria. He remained there for 17 months until he was able to

cross into Switzerland and from there travel to Spain where he settled.

In 1948 Vladimir married in Switzerland, Princess Leonida, the second daughter of Prince George Bagration-Mukhransky of Georgia. She had been married previously to Sumner Moore Kirby, an American who had died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945.

For most of his life Vladimir was a full-time pretender with no other job. He once told an interviewer that he was busy most days dealing with his correspondence, adding, perhaps mistakenly, that he received about a dozen letters a day. He and his family lived in substantial residences in St Briac, Paris and Madrid enjoying a relatively luxurious life-style but he said the stories of a vast Romanov family fortune being salted away were untrue. Commenting on the claims of a woman called Anna Andersen to be the Grand Duchess Anastasia, a surviving child of Nicholas II, Vladimir said nothing would have given him greater pleasure than to believe that a daughter of the last emperor had survived. But the family had investigated the claim; his own sister, Kira, had visited the woman and it was 99.9 per cent improbable that she really was Anastasia.

Vladimir was an energetic man maintaining contacts with exiled White Russian compatriots and travelling widely. After a life in exile lived in parallel with the rise and decline of the Soviet regime, its demise gave Vladimir grim satisfaction moderated only by the desperate plight of the Russian people. He viewed the reforms in the Soviet Union instituted by Mikhail Gorbachev as hopeful ones and last year expressed his readiness to back Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

He remained determined that whatever happened in his homeland, the Romanov claim to the Russian throne would stay alive.

"It is something you cannot give up, because you are born with it," he said. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, the Grand Duchess Marie Vladimirovna, who was born in 1953. She married Prince Franz-Wilhelm of Prussia in 1976 and succeeds her father as head of the Russian imperial family. The grand duke is also survived by a grandson, the Grand Duke George of Russia, who is 11 years old.

Birthdays

Mr M.A. Anson, former chairman, Wessex Water Authority, 68; Mrs Shirley Temple Black, former actress and American diplomat, 64; the Most Rev Michael Bowen, Archbishop of Southwark, 62; Lord Carew, 87; Mr Bill Cotton, former managing director, BBC Television, 64; Mr Antony Crampton, television producer, 64; Mr J.R. Donaghy, author 64; Sir Damián Downs, automotive engineer, 70; Lady Dudley, 85; the Hon Victoria Glendinning, author, 55; Mr William Hagerty, editor, *The People*, 53; Sir Arnold Hall, former chairman, Hawker Siddeley Group, 77; Sir Russell Hillhouse, civil servant, 54; Mr R.E. Holland, former chairman, Pearl Group, 65; Mr James Kirkup, travel writer, novelist and playwright, 60; Dr R.M. Laws, master, St Edmund's College, Cambridge, 66; Colonel Sir Andrew Martin, former Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire, 78; Sir Thomas Padmore, civil servant, 83; Professor George Steiner, author, 65; Sir Peter Teley, secretary, 84; Sir Eric Yarrow, 72.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon, 1564 (he died on this day at Stratford, 1616); Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, London 1775; James Buchanan, 15th president of the United States 1857-61; Cove Gap, Pennsylvania, 1791; Max Planck, physicist, Kiel, 1858; Edmund Henry Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, field marshal, Brackenhurst, Nottinghamshire, 1861; Lester Pearson, prime minister of Canada 1963-68, Nobel peace laureate 1957, Toronto, 1897.

DEATHS: Miguel de Cervantes, novelist, Madrid, 1616; Henry Vaughan, poet, Llanfairfryn, Dyfed, 1695; Joseph Nollekens, sculptor, London 1823; William Wordsworth, Poet Laureate 1843-50, Rydal Mount, Cumbria, 1850; Rupert Brooke, poet, died on active service, Skros, 1915; Jim Laker, cricketer, 1986; Arthur Michael Ramsey, Lord Ramsey of Canterbury, archbishop of Canterbury 1961-74, 1988.

Today is the Feast of St George, patron saint of England.

Appointments

Miss Gillian Weir to be President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Mr Jack Bryner to be president-elect.

Mr Lindsay Eavis and Lord Crathorne to be trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, in succession to the Marquess of Anglesey and Sir Oliver Miller.

Mr W. Reeves to be Assistant Under Secretary (Commitments), Ministry of Defence, from May 5.

Mr J.G.H. Walker to be Director General Policy and Special Projects, Land Systems Command, Ministry of Defence, from May 12.

Mr Leslie Worth to be President of the Royal Watercolour Society in succession to Mr Charles Barlett.

Luncheon

Lloyd's Register
Sir Roderick MacLeod, Chairman of Lloyd's Register, senior staff, board and general committee members and members of Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Board gave a luncheon yesterday at 71 Fenchurch Street.

Mr E.A.J. George, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, was the guest of honour.

Among those present were the Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, Sir Ian Denholm, Sir Bob Reid, Sir David Scholey, Mr T.A. Akroyd, Mr S. Dragebo, Mr F.C.E. Embiricos, Mr H.O. McCoy, Mr R.J. Palmer, Mr J.D. Rowland, Mr C.M. Smith, Mr P.C. Tudball, the Deputy Master of the Corporation of Trinity House, the President of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects, the Chief Executive of North Sea Safety, the Renier Warden of the Shipwrights' Company, the Provost-Chancellor of Newcastle upon Tyne University, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organisation and the Chief Registrar of the Registry of Friendly Societies.

Dinner

Royal Society of St George
Mr Martin Barber, Chairman of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George, accompanied by Mrs Barber, presided at an eve of St George's dinner held last night at Guildhall.

The other speakers were Sir John Killick, Colonel Iain Ferguson, Director of the Royal Tournament, Mr Deputy Bernard L. Morgan, branch president, and the Rev Basil Watson. Messages were received from The Queen and the Lord Mayor.

Among those present were the President of the Royal Society of St George, Sir William and Lady Shapland, the Recorder of London and Mrs Verney, the Chairman of the Royal Society of St George and Mrs Minshull-Fogg, the President of the Sydney branch, the President of the United Wards Club and Mrs Ballard, the Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London and Mrs Kemp, the President of the City Livery Club and Mrs Boreham and members of the Court of Common Council of the Corporation of London.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance and Nursing Cadets, will open the new headquarters at Alton at 10.15; as Patron of the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will visit the bureau at Alton to mark its 50th anniversary at 11.05. She will open the new World of Lemurs exhibition at Marwell Zoological Park, near Winchester, at 11.55; will open the new CAB premises at Ringwood at 1.55; will re-commission TS *Royalist* at Lynton at 2.35; and, as Patron of the British Steel Challenge, will attend a dinner for the chairman of companies sponsoring the yachts taking part in the challenge at Bodley Park Hotel and Country Club, Bodley, at 7.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as President of the WRVSS London area, will visit the offices at 234 Stockwell Road, SW9, at 11.00.

Lady Gabriella Windsor is eleven today.

April 23. ON THIS DAY 1907

In the making of a dramatic film, three "razzies" bent on wrecking a train were to place sleepers on the line; a performer, playing a railwayman, was to spot them and be knocked unconscious and lie on the track. In the dénouement, his dog having failed to get help, would pull a cord and set a signal to danger. Unfortunately, in a dummy run, something went wrong and the man was killed.

INQUEST

At Croydon, yesterday, an inquest was held on the body of William Zeitz, who was killed last week on the railway at Stoa's Nest whilst acting as a train-wrecking scene intended for reproduction in the bioscope.

Mr Austin, on behalf of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway, said he wished to state before any evidence was taken that the occurrence took place without any knowledge or sanction on the part of the railway company's chief officials. Directly it came to their knowledge, all railway men concerned in the affair were suspended.

Mr Price, on behalf of the Clarendon Film Company, said he wished to express the firm's deep regret for the accident.

Henry Lawley, a partner in the firm, said their object was to get a film picture in which a dog should play a prominent part. The idea was that the ganger on the line discovered three men placing sleepers on the railway line with the intention of wrecking a train when he was struck down and rendered unconscious across the line. His dog, seeing his master's danger, was to return to his home for assistance. Being unable to get assistance, the dog was to pull a cord of the signal and set it at danger, thereby stopping the train.

To work out this scheme, he went down to Mr Bromley, the

station master at Stoa's Nest, and showed him a written copy of the plot. He explained it to the station master and asked his permission to act it out on a siding at Stoa's Nest. Mr Bromley consented. On Wednesday last, Mr. and Mrs. Zeitz and four other men met the witness and his partner at Stoa's Nest. The station master escorted them to Mr. Bromley then left them.

As the train started out of the station into the siding for one of the later scenes, Zeitz lay down on the line just beyond the sleepers. Instead of stopping as arranged, the train passed the mark and the guard iron caught the first sleeper, which struck the second sleeper, this in turn striking Zeitz. Zeitz threw himself on his back in the four-foot way. A sleeper caught his chest and dragged him along about 20 feet, his head bumping the other sleeper.

The usual driver was driving the train. The witness said that they thought it was possible to stop an engine within 61m of any spot they wished. They never anticipated the least possibility of danger. There was no mention of remuneration, either directly or indirectly, of the officials.

Perceval Stow said he rode on the engine, and he told the driver he could enter the picture fairly quickly. The train pulled up very suddenly, and one of the men came up and shouted: "You have run over the man," and the engine was then reversed.

William Podmore, the driver of the engine, said he was told by the station master that he was to run his train down the siding because Stow was to take a snapshot. He turned to Stow and asked him what he wanted, and the station master told him he was to run down it and stop dead. He did not see the sleepers on the line. Both the witness and his mate were to keep out of sight as they did not want them to appear in the picture.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

THURSDAY APRIL 23 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

PETER TRIVNOR

Sterling close to central ERM parity

Pound soars on demand from abroad

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

A SURGE of demand from the Middle East and South-East Asia sent the pound sharply higher yesterday, as international investors began to accumulate sterling to finance bids in the £2.5 billion gilt-edged auction announced by the Bank of England for next Wednesday.

The pound rose 2 pence against the German mark and more than a cent against the dollar in early morning trading, before stabilising in the afternoon at around DM2.93 and \$1.7580.

On the ERM grid of exchange rates, the pound rose above the French franc and Danish crown to stand only 0.7 per cent below its central parity against the mark. Until the Conservatives' unexpected victory in the general election, the pound had languished almost continuously at the bottom of the ERM.

The foreign exchange market shrugged off weaker than expected money supply figures for March as old news that merely reflected consumer uncertainty ahead of the election. Analysts also refused to be perturbed by the second consecutive day of falling equity prices, arguing that this was no more than a technical correction at the end of an exceptionally strong three-week account period.

Apart from the international demand for pounds ahead of the Bank of England's gilt auction, the main factor powering the sterling rally was investors' growing conviction that Norman Lamont

planned no early reduction in interest rates. Although the government was clearly determined to see an economic recovery begin by the summer, the election campaign suggested that John Major's personal inclination might be to put further downward pressure on inflation. With industrialists and retailers widely predicting recovery even at present interest rates, the government was likely to heed Treasury and Bank of England advice that the benefits of previous interest rate reductions had not yet been fully felt.

Steve Barrow, a foreign exchange economist at Chemical Bank, said: "There is now no political pressure on the government to cut interest rates and it seems happy to wait until the pound is firmly established around DM2.95 before considering a cut."

With the government's conclusive election victory apparently ruling out any devaluation of sterling or ERM realignment, international investors are strongly drawn to interest rates in London,

which are still far above those in Frankfurt, Paris and other leading European capital markets.

Analysts were widely predicting yesterday that sterling would rise before long to its ERM central parity of DM2.95. At that point, however, further gains might encounter stronger resistance amid renewed concerns about lower interest rates and the uncertain prospects of economic recovery.

Yesterday, there were ambiguous indicators about the prospects for recovery. While the Association of British Chambers of Commerce produced its most optimistic survey for 18 months, predicting that the recession was all but over, money supply figures for March suggested that spending had remained weak, at least before the election.

Individuals and companies repaid debts during the month rather than take on new lending, the Bank of England said. The M4 measure of lending showed a surplus of £500 million last month, in sharp contrast to City estimates of a £1.5 billion outflow from banks and building societies. M0, the measure of notes and coins in circulation, grew at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent last month, as in February.

The modest growth of Britain's money supply contrasts starkly with rapid monetary growth in Germany, which has been cited by the Bundesbank as the reason why interest rates will have to remain high.



Lamont: firm on rates

Comment, page 21

Olympia & York holds talks with British government

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

OLYMPIA & York, the troubled Canadian property group, has appealed to bankers in the City to lend it £110 million to fund the Canary Wharf development in Docklands for the next three months.

Steve Miller, the group's special adviser who is masterminding the restructuring of its \$12 billion debt, also revealed that O&Y is having two sets of talks with the British government. One is over the future of the Jubilee line extension to Canary Wharf, while O&Y is also trying to secure a senior government department as a key tenant for the development.

Mr Miller met bankers at the offices of Allen & Overy, O&Y's solicitor. In response to demands from the banks last week, he handed out a 100-page dossier containing further details of the company's financial position over the next five years. These included valuations of Canary Wharf and details of a disposal programme that will help to reduce the group's debts.

The dossier also included a day-by-day forecast of the group's cash flow over the next 90 days while it puts together its debt restructuring proposals.

At a press conference afterwards, Mr Miller said there had been a good exchange of information and that O&Y believed it had the continued support of its lenders.

Sixteen banks were represented, including Barclays and Lloyds. The banks came from two syndicates. These are the main group of 11 construction lenders, which have lent £500 million to Canary Wharf, and a syndicate of five equity lenders whose debts are secured on Canadian assets.

The talks will continue tomorrow, once the banks have time to digest the new information. The banks must also decide which of them should advance the new money.

Bankers said that it was unlikely they would advance the full sum immediately but would offer sufficient funds to allow development work to

continue while talks went on. O&Y is also asking for the banks to extend the £52 million short-term facility they advanced last month.

In Canada, O&Y scored a significant success when lenders, which are thought to include the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank of Canada, agreed to lend the company US\$30 million to allow discussions to continue. O&Y wants to borrow a total of C\$75 million (£37 million) to fund its operations in Canada for the next three months.

Mr Miller said he hoped the Jubilee line would be finished on time in 1996 but did not detail how O&Y will fund its £400 million commitment to the project.

He stressed that O&Y intended to repay all principal interest to the banks. "Within 90 days we want to complete an agreement with all major lenders to the company so we can put to rest any questions about the continuing viability of the company."

Plugging the hole in Abbey's float

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE loudest applause at Abbey National's annual meeting yesterday was reserved for the unexpected news that a gang suspected of gouging cashpoints out of the walls of the bank's branches with stolen JCBs had been arrested in Romford, London, in the early hours of yesterday morning.

Abbey's board was clearly relieved that the appearance of yet another gap in the wall where the diamond-shaped hole in the wall should be a thing of the past. However, the 1,400 shareholders at the meeting left the board in no doubt that other problems were looming large and demanded answers.

The size of audience in the Great Room at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's



Tugendhat: sixth letter

Park Lane reflected the vast scale of Abbey's flotation in 1989. Shareholders were reminded that they were the lucky ones, having been allocated shares in the catalogue of confusion surrounding the flotation.

Sir Christopher Tugendhat, Abbey's chairman, preempted the inevitable question about what the

company was going to do with the 400,000 allocations of 100 shares that have still not been claimed nearly three years after the flotation.

The company had written to these shareholders five times, he said, and was about to write again. After July 12, the third anniversary of the flotation, Abbey could sell the shares. That did not mean that shareholders could not claim them back, he added; they could do so at any time in the next eight years. One option could be to endow the Abbey's charitable trust with the shares, worth about £100 million.

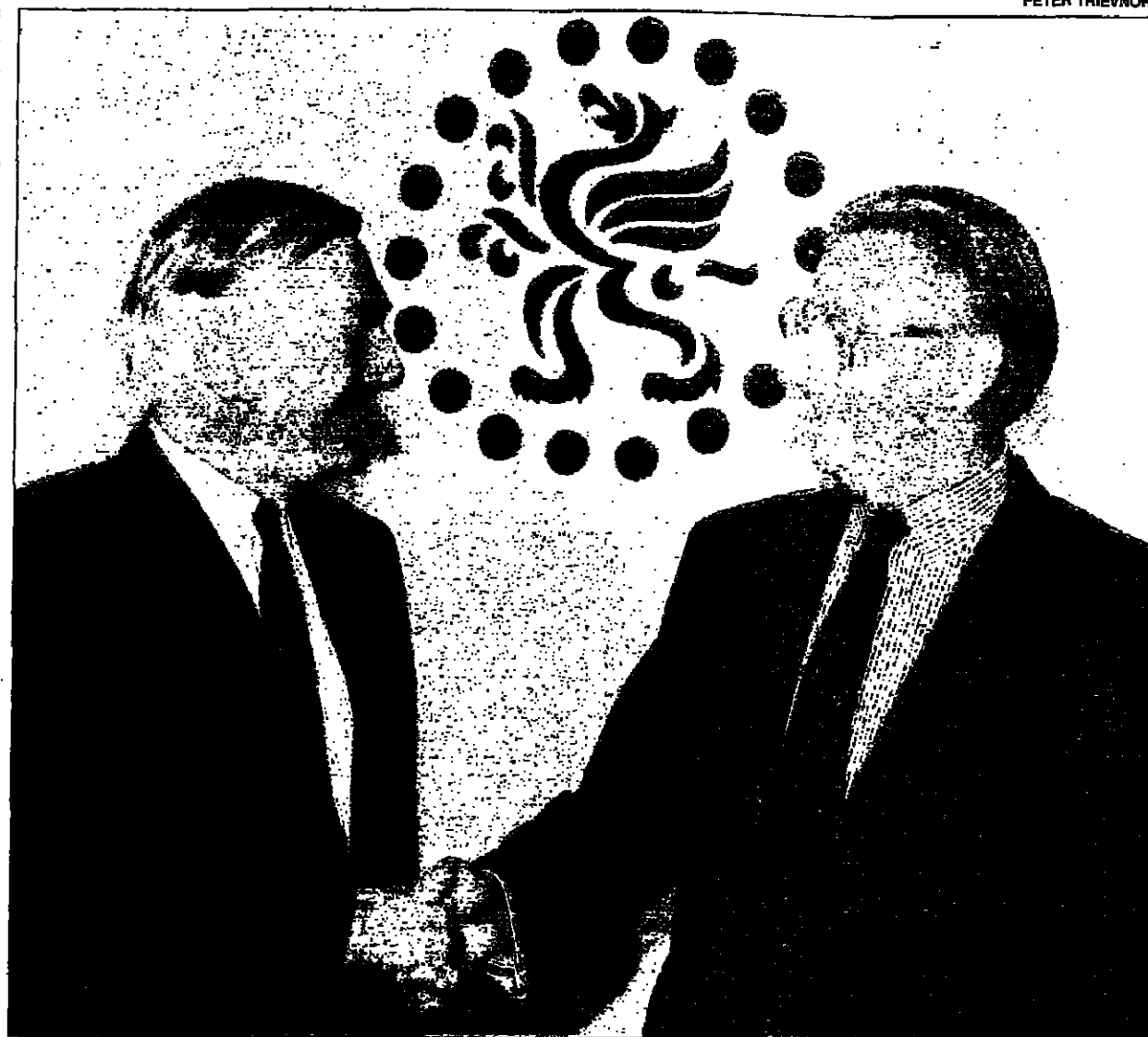
This idea struck a chord with several shareholders. One made a brave attempt to contest a proposal to change the company's rules on advertising unclaimed shares by suggesting that the "sorry episode" should be ended by

giving the money to charities, including Shelter, an apt outlier for a company whose main wealth is in residential property.

The investor was massively outvoted despite attracting four seconds to his proposal.

He should have foreseen this, given the reception of a fellow shareholder, who, with similar charitable intent, called for the final dividend to be held at last year's 9.5p per share instead of the proposed 10.5p per share. The money saved should be used to top up Abbey's £60 million mortgage rescue scheme to help those threatened with repossession and should be boosted with receipts from the phased sales of unwanted shares.

The proposal was not allowed to proceed because the investor had not given enough notice.



Will they, won't they? William Purves (left), whose Hongkong Bank is bidding for Sir Peter Walters' Midland

Vickers fails to sell Rolls to Toyota

BY ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS in Vickers are expected to confront Sir David Platts, the chairman, today after the company confirmed it had tried to sell Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, the luxury carmaker, to Toyota, the Japanese vehicle maker.

Vickers has been seeking an outside group to buy Rolls-Royce or inject cash and expertise to assist in developing new models.

However, Shoichiro Toyoda, president of Toyota, said in Japan his company had broken off talks because it "did not have enough time" to consider the acquisition.

There were signs that Vickers, a diversified engineering group, was anxious to complete a deal before today's meeting, or before Sir David's retirement at the end of next month. A Vickers spokesman said the company would continue exploratory talks with other groups.

Toyota had been regarded as one of the most promising potential partners for Rolls-Royce. The Japanese manufacturer has invested hundreds of millions of pounds in a British manufacturing plant at Burnaston, Derbyshire.

Vickers remains adamant that it has no urgent need to find a buyer or partner for Rolls-Royce, which has been savaged by a collapse in demand for luxury cars. The company has responded by cutting costs. It should now be able to achieve a profit by making fewer than 2,000 vehicles a year. Although the company may sell only 1,700 cars this year, analysts expect it to break even in the second half, and produce a loss for the year of less than £15 million.

Hongkong Bank pours scorn on possible Lloyds counterbid

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Purves, the chairman of HSBC Holdings, yesterday responded angrily to suggestions that Lloyds Bank might launch a counterbid for Midland Bank, and called for support for his own bank's £3.1 billion offer.

He said a bid by Lloyds would be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission; even if it were successful, the merged group would be more like a building society than a bank.

His comments were made after reports that Lloyds directors would decide tomorrow whether to launch a counterbid. Barings, Lloyds' merchant banking adviser, is said to be standing ready.

Brian Pitman, Lloyds chief executive, has been visiting institutions in America but is due to return to London. He is said to favour an offer, but other Lloyds directors, including Sir Jeremy Morse, the

chairman, are thought to oppose a hostile bid.

Mr Purves has come to London to convince institutional investors to back the bid from HSBC, the holding company of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. The 378p a share all-paper offer met strong resistance from investors when it was launched last week. Many had expected more than 400p a share, together with a cash element.

"Ours is a positive story about a new international bank in London, not something that would look more like a building society," Mr Purves said. "There are already enough building societies in Britain."

Reports suggest that a merger of Midland and Lloyds would lead to more than 1,000 branch closures and 20,000 job losses. Mr Purves commented: "We are not proposing a contraction, or add-

ing 20,000 to the unemployment figures, but the growth of an international bank."

He added that any bid by a UK clearer would be referred to the MMC, while referral of HSBC's offer was unlikely. "During that period, Midland customers and staff would have a very worrying time and some would march," he said.

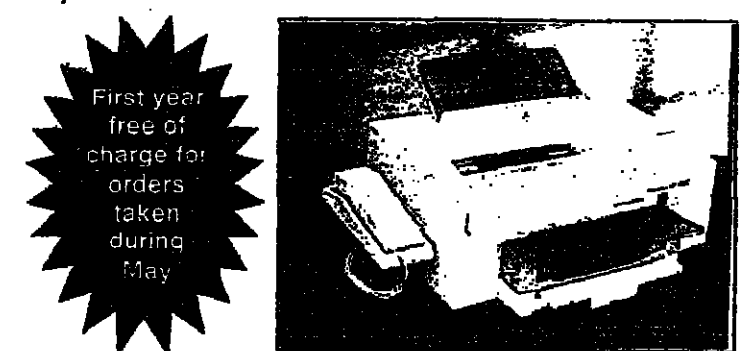
If HSBC won the bid, it hoped to expand into the Continent. Mr Purves suggested that it would approach continental banks for strategic alliances or special correspondent relationships, something HSBC has already examined. "Europe is a huge market both for investment and for trade," he said. "It will pick itself up again and people will start looking for growth areas."

Comment, page 21

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GE accused of fixing prices on diamonds

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

FBI investigators and Justice Department officials are probing the \$600 million industrial diamond market after allegations that General Electric conspired with South African companies to create a price-fixing cartel.

A spokesman for GE, one of America's largest industrial companies and not linked to the UK's GEC, said: "We are undertaking a comprehensive internal investigation and will co-operate fully with the government enquiry. But, based on our current information, we have no reason to believe that an anti-trust violation occurred."

The enquiry follows a suit filed by Edward Russell, a former GE divisional executive. In a wide-ranging suit, which includes the allegation that one GE manager spent \$20,000 in corporate funds to visit prostitutes in Bangkok, Mr Russell claims he was wrongfully dismissed by GE last November after he protested about efforts to fix diamond prices.

Mr Russell was president of GE's Superabrasives division, which manufactures industrial diamonds and employs 2,000 people at a plant in Dublin. His suit

states that along with companies linked to De Beers Consolidated Mines of South Africa, Superabrasives controls 90 per cent of the industrial diamond market.

Mr Russell, 54, who began working with GE in 1974, claims that one executive held a secret meeting with De Beers last September.

Mr Russell also claims he discovered a kickback scheme in 1987, which was found to breach GE policies, but the company took no disciplinary action. He has also claimed that GE engaged in a share transaction to inflate the profits of its plastics company.

GE said in a statement: "During the two years he (Mr Russell) was vice president, the earnings of his business dropped nearly 50 per cent and he did not make his budget either year."

"He had severe leadership difficulties and GE hired a professional management consultant to help him improve his skills with his subordinates, peers, managers and customers. This turned out to be unsuccessful as the business results continued to deteriorate and his leadership skills did not improve. We then removed him."



Air space: Davies & Newman, parent of Dan-Air, has beaten turnover and operating loss forecasts made at the time of the financial reconstruction last year. The pre-tax loss was almost unchanged at £35 million, but David James, chairman, said the £20 million profit forecast for 1992 was unlikely to be met. *Tempos, page 20*

O'Reilly sues Fairfax for £76m

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

A CLAIM for damages, totalling \$175 million (£76 million), by Dr Tony O'Reilly, the Irish businessman, has forced John Fairfax Holdings to issue a supplementary prospectus for its flotation of the newspaper group. Application lists for Fairfax shares close tomorrow and the stock is due to be listed on May 7.

Dr O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers consortium lost to the Tourang consortium, led by Conrad Black, the Canadian publisher, in the battle for Fairfax.

Director, said that Fairfax would advertise in newspapers from today. The advertisements would show the amount and nature of the claim to inform investors who had already subscribed for Fairfax shares. Prospectuses issued shortly would contain an attached notice of the claim.

Mr Black, Fairfax's deputy chairman, and Sir Zelman Cowan, the chairman, said that the group had received legal advice that the claim would fail. Independent Newspapers has made two

claims against John Fairfax Holdings, formerly the Tourang consortium. It is claiming an alleged breach of the cross-media rules of the Broadcasting Act and an alleged breach of sections of the Trade Practices Act, involving Tourang's agreement with the American-based holders of junk bonds under the previous Fairfax regime.

The action is set down for a directions hearing in the federal court in two weeks. If it goes ahead, it is not expected to be heard until later this year.

Reece passes final payout

By PHILIP PANGALOS

REECE, the fastener supplier, door panels maker and distributor of cycles and cycle components, is not paying a final dividend after a deterioration in trading conditions in the second half.

The company blamed the "deepest and longest" recession ever experienced for a second-half trading loss. It made pre-tax profits of £403,000 in the year to end-December, against £415,000 in the previous period, which was for 15 months.

Reece said trading conditions deteriorated as the year progressed, with the record number of business failures leading to unprecedented bad debts. Lower levels of business and intense price competition in the second half led to a loss.

Turnover rose to £14.2 million, against £11.7 million in the comparative 15-month period. The company said trading had continued to be difficult in the first three months of this year, although there are signs of an improvement in demand.

There was an extraordinary debit of £30,000. Earnings per share slipped to 0.46p, against 0.63p last time.

Reece declared an interim dividend of 0.1p, the company's first interim payout for a number of years. There was no final dividend for the previous 15-month period. The shares were unchanged at 5p after the announcement of the results.

Kingston Oil drills to doubled profits

KINGSTON Oil & Gas, the energy company, has doubled pre-tax profits to £1.2 million on turnover of £6.3 million (£3.4 million) during the year to end-December. The company said the results reflected progress in the drilling programme in America, where oil and gas reserves grew 12 per cent, and the first full contribution from Orco, the company's oil recycling subsidiary. Current trading is said to exceed the levels achieved in the second half of last year. Ray Chambers, the chairman, said he expects progress to be maintained during 1992.

The company ended the year with cash in the bank and said that it did not expect any significant borrowings during the current year because of the strength of its cash flow. A final 1.5p dividend makes a total 2.5p (1.56p), paid from earnings of 9.01p — an 85 per cent increase.

Dencora pegs payout

NET asset value of Dencora, a housebuilding and property company, shrank from 280p to 228p a share and pre-tax profits fell from £2.21 million to £404,000 in the year to December. Dencora says its substantial distributable reserves made it possible to hold the total dividend at 5.5p a share "in these more difficult times". Any improvement in housebuilding this year will be modest, and the commercial property market remains difficult, the company adds. The shares rose 3p to 118p.

Jessups back in black

LOWER interest payments helped Jessups, the Essex motor dealer and vehicle leasing group, to a pre-tax profit of £189,000 in the six months to end-February (1989,000 loss). Restructuring and cost cutting also enabled the return to profit. Turnover, however, was £38.3 million (£45 million). Group borrowings were down £1.3 million, with interest payments down from £1.9 million to £978,000. The loss per share was 0.24p (3.94p loss). The interim dividend is maintained at 1.5p. The shares firmed 3p to 77p.

Rent boost at Benthalls

REDEVELOPMENT in the centre of Kingston upon Thames, south west London, will help Benthalls, the department store chain with seven outlets in the southeast, to pull out of recession. Guaranteed minimum rents from the new Benthalls Centre from next September are £1.65 million a year. Benthalls saw pre-tax profits slump from £3.3 million to £1.4 million in the year to February 1, although turnover held well at £70.9 million. The unchanged final dividend of 3.25p maintains the total at 3.85p.

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Clegg gets payout of £425,000 for his job at Wace

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHN Clegg, who two months ago resigned as chief executive of Wace Group, is being paid £425,000 compensation for loss of office, which takes account of a three-year rolling contract and an annual salary of £200,000.

Mr Clegg said in February that he had no alternative but to resign from Wace following stock market rumours — which he and Wace Group

have vigorously denied — of connections with the IRA. Frans ten Bos, Wace's chairman, said yesterday that the damage to the group had been considerable, and the cost of denying the allegations and Mr Clegg's compensation payment totalled £850,000.

A writ has been served on The Sunday Telegraph. The rumours knocked Wa-

ce shares from 260p last October to 100p in January. They rose 8p to 127p yesterday following 1991 results to end-December, showing pre-tax profits of £18.3 million against £26.5 million and a maintained 8.25p dividend.

Mr Bos said Mr Clegg's departure left a personal void, but had had little effect on the day-to-day running of the group's operations. Wace was not dependent on any one individual and had been head hunting for a new chief executive, he added.

An appointment is likely to be made within three months.

Wace suffered in the recession with the London and New York advertising downturn hurting the group's press division. Wace's property portfolio was damaged by lower valuations, and investment properties were written down by £8 million.

"It is the board's firm intention to reduce the level of borrowings to a more acceptable level," Mr Bos said, though he warned this may be difficult to achieve in the short term. The group paid £12 million as additional consideration for previous acquisitions in respect of their profit performance in 1991, and expects similar payments to be a maximum of £4 million in 1992 and around £1.5 million in 1993.

Wace was co-operating in all respects with a DTI enquiry that concerns the ownership of Parkway (bought by Wace in 1990, and 100 per cent owned), Tinsley Robor (20 per cent owned) and European Colour, in which Wace has no interest.

Mr Bos said that the first quarter had given Wace a sound start to 1992.

Walker Greenbank maintains payout

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

WALKER Greenbank, the wall coverings group that completed a two-year restructuring in December, is maintaining its dividend after weathering the worst of the recession.

The payout comes despite a 32.4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £5.43 million in the year to end-January. Turnover, affected by discontinued activities, fell to £56.8 million (£75.3 million).

Operating profits from the core wallcovering business rose 9 per cent to £6.9 million after a £1.9 million contribution from Brynmor, the commercial wallpaper maker acquired last year. Like-for-like profits fell to £4.9 million (£6.2 million).

A 16 per cent drop in commercial wallcoverings, which account for about two thirds of business, compares favourably with a fall in the overall market of almost 30 per cent. Domestic products, aimed at the middle and top

ends of the market, enjoyed a 20 per cent increase. Reorganisation and closure costs more than wiped out a £1.16 million property disposal profit, resulting in a £212,000 exceptional charge. There was an extraordinary debit of £685,000.

Earnings fell to 4.14p a share, down from 5.63p a share last time. The final dividend stays at 1.9p, for an unchanged total of 3.1p.

Meanwhile, the stake held by Aubin, the Jersey investment group that attempted a boardroom coup last year, is no longer a threat, having been trimmed from 28 per cent to about 12 per cent.

The current financial year has started well, the group said. The business is highly operationally geared and any upturn in sales should lead to a healthy improvement in profitability. The shares advanced 3p to 64p.

Tempos, page 20

Capital pleases the market

Shares in Capital Industries advanced 18p to 74p after its final figures. Formerly known as Capital Ventures, it came to market in July following acquisition of Harcourt, the packaging group.

Pre-tax profits of £1.29 million for the year to end-December came from turnover of £15.4 million. A comparative profit of £1 million relates solely to the original business of Capital Ventures. A final dividend of 2p has been declared.

Copymore plus

Copymore, the office equipment distributor, has made 10 per cent more pre-tax profit, up from £931,000 to £1 million for the year to end December.

Flying higher

Air London International lifted pre-tax profits from £611,000 to £671,000 in the six months to the end of January, despite turnover down from £8.65 million to £7.2 million. Interim is up from 1.4p to 1.6p.

No final

Europa, the shopfitter, is passing its final dividend (2.1p) leaving shareholders with 1.5p (3.6p) after pre-tax losses of £2.47 million (£1.5m profit) for the year ended December. Tempos, page 20

Final payout cut by Austin Reed

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

AUSTIN Reed Group, the tailored men's and women's clothing retailer, has cut its dividend for the first time in 40 years. The final dividend is being more than halved, from 6.5p to 3p, making 6p (9.5p), after pre-tax profits slipped from £3.55 million to £3.23 million in the year to January 31. Earnings per share fell to 7.9p (9.5p).

Barry Reed, the chairman, hinted six months ago that the final might be in danger after a depressed first half. Now he has added that the interim, which will be declared in October, will be reviewed in the light of conditions at that time and group profitability.

The group, operating from 37 retail branches in Britain and owning three manufacturing companies, including Chester Barrie and Stephens Brothers, saw its turnover contract from £71.8 million to £67.9 million. Men's retail turnover was 2.3 per cent lower, but women's retail turnover rose 2.7 per cent to £11 million.

Trading conditions were difficult throughout the year because of the impact of the Gulf war on the tourist trade, the lack of consumer confidence and higher VAT.

Mr Reed says that costs

were cut and staff levels reduced. He added that the general election result was good for business, but any improvement in consumer confidence would be slow, particularly at the upper end of the retail market.

Profitability will continue to be under pressure until at least the second half of this financial year, he said. However, the Austin Reed Group was well placed, on both the retail and export fronts, when more favourable trading conditions returned, the chairman said.

The A shares fell 12p to 136p when the results were announced.



Reed: trading "difficult"

Software forgery ring broken up

FROM REUTER IN REDMOND, WASHINGTON STATE

MICROSOFT, the world's largest software company, said it had broken up an international counterfeit software ring with the help of authorities in Taiwan, Hong Kong and China.

Up to 75,000 illicit copies of Microsoft software are thought to have been funnelled into international distribution channels each month. They included copies of the MS-DOS operating system and of the company's Windows graphic operating environment.

Five raids uncovered groups responsible for producing fake manuals, diskettes and packages, including the distinctive hologram Microsoft uses to try to prevent forgeries.

Microsoft estimates that between 450,000 and 3 million counterfeit copies of the company's holograms might have been forged before the operation was shut down.

Seized products include copies of English, French, German, Italian and Swedish versions of MS-DOS, destined for Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States.

Bill Neukom, Microsoft's vice president in charge of law and corporate affairs, said: "We will not stand by and watch as counterfeiters attempt to fool our customers with false goods. We will prosecute."

Microsoft is pursuing litigation against Fong Shu Gwong, a suspect caught in the Taiwan raids, and the Shenzhen Reflective Materials Institute, in China. Suspects face jail and fines if convicted. The company began a six-month investigation last October.

According to the Business Software Alliance, software piracy cost the industry \$12 billion to \$14 billion in 1990.

Cookson reshapes top team

COOKSON Group, the industrial materials company, is restructuring its senior management, leaving it without a financial officer on the board. Pergus Munro, 49, stands down as finance director and will not be replaced. Ian Barr, 58, currently group financial controller, becomes chief financial officer, reporting to Richard Oser, group managing director.

Robert Malpas, the chairman, said Mr Munro's departure was part of a "streamlining" of the head office organisation.

Cookson has bought the 50 per cent of Stern Leach it did not own from Leach & Garner for \$18 million cash. Cookson said Leach & Garner exercised its put option for Cookson to acquire the stake. Last year, Stern Leach, which supplies precious metal products, made a pre-tax loss of \$2 million. It traded profitably in the first quarter this year.



Nourishing business: Sir Dennis Landau reported investment of £120 million, and said CWS was "in better shape than for years"

CWS squeezes more profit out of lower sales

BY DEREK HARRIS

RECESSION hit hard at Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) and Sir Dennis Landau, its chief executive, gave warning yesterday that "some predictions on the upturn in the economy are too optimistic".

In the first three months of this year, sales of the Co-op's biggest retailer, manufacturer and wholesaler, which is based in Manchester, have been down marginally on the

same period of 1991. Recession was felt by most parts of the business only in the second half of last year, because much of CWS's trading is in the less afflicted North and Midlands.

CWS trading profits rose by 5.6 per cent to £47.1 million, on sales approaching £3.2 billion — up from £3 billion. Pre-tax profits, however, plunged 70 per cent to £5.8 million as CWS made an £11 million provision for property development write-

downs. Profits were also hit by heavy interest charges on borrowings that rose 8.5 per cent to £318 million. CWS has pursued a strategy of expansion, and several stores have been opened.

Interest charges were about £25 million last year. For the second year, the Co-operative Bank, a wholly owned subsidiary that has experienced difficulties, did not pay CWS a dividend.

Sir Dennis, who will be succeeded by David Skinner

in June after 12 years as chief executive and 21 with CWS, said the engineering and property businesses had suffered setbacks. Neither was likely "for some years" to return to the prosperity of the 1980s, he said.

Sales of investment properties during the year helped to raise £16.5 million. That boosted the final bottom line to £15.5 million, against £12.3 million that went to reserves the year before. Capital spending was

£120 million, only £15 million below 1990's record.

"The result," Sir Dennis said, "is an organisation that is in better shape than it has been for many years and better than many other British companies."

CWS has traditionally supplied goods and services to Britain's 65 independent retail co-operative societies. It has also become a big retailer in its own right, accounting for 27 per cent of Co-op retailing.

Fly Emirates.

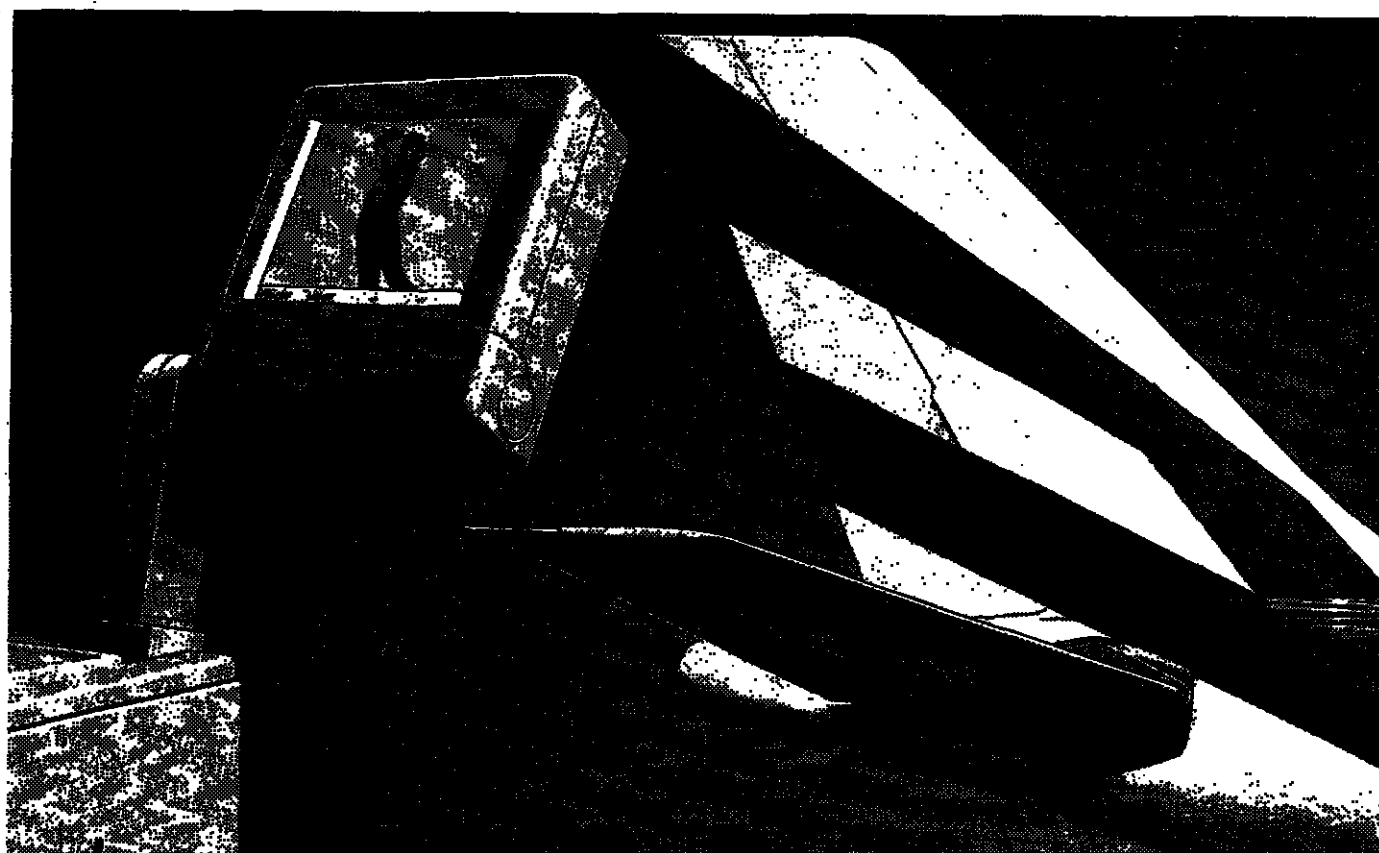
Serving

Europe

Middle East

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EVERY PASSENGER GETS THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE.



Because from 1st May we will be fitting a personal video set to every seat in all three classes on our Airbus aircraft.

You'll be able to choose from two movies, and four Emirates Television channels covering sport, current affairs, children's viewing, comedy, lifestyle and an

Arabic language channel.

In Business Class and Economy, the screens will be built into the seat back in front of you. They are fully adjustable and feature touch controls for added convenience.

In First Class, where the screens are housed in your armrests, passengers will also be provided with individual video cassette players, and an extensive library of over 25 movies.

Not surprisingly, Emirates

is the first airline in the world to install a personal in-flight video system in all three classes, and we will have our entire Airbus fleet fitted by the end of Summer 1992.

But then, as our award winning food, fine wines and superb service reflect, passenger comfort has always been our first priority.

For Reservations, contact your travel agent or Emirates on 071 930 3711 or Manchester on 061 437 9007.



Refining the shape of air travel.

Squaring of positions wipes out gains

THE resurgence in the strength of the pound against its main rivals on world markets failed to have any impact on the stock market, which saw an early lead wiped out and closed lower. Dealers said the reasons for the fall were mainly technical and were related to the squaring-up of positions as the volatile

Credit Lyonnais Laing's preview of companies reporting soon recommends Next, down 1p at 79 1/2p, Buzell, off 1p at 102 1/2p, Marley, up 2p at 132p, Raytheon, 2p further at 215p, Smiths Industries, down 1p at 314p, and Wincap, up 9p at 185p. It says they should benefit quickly from any economic upturn.

three-week account begins drawing to a close. The expiry of the April series of traded options and a softer trend in the futures market for the June series accelerated the falls in after-hours trading.

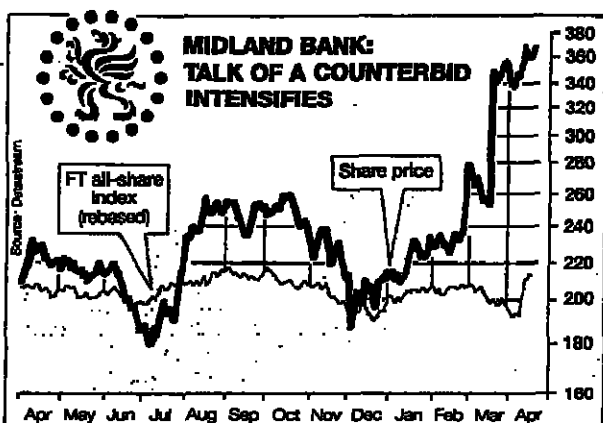
The FT-SE 100 index ended at its low of the day, down 18 points at 2,607.8, having been 15.4 points higher at the opening. Selling was con-

tained as investors began taking profits and, by the close, 617 million shares had been traded. Government securities were able to capitalise on sterling's strength and the revived hopes of a cut in interest rates. Prices at the longer end rose by almost 1/2p.

City speculation that Lloyd's Bank, 4 1/2p dearer at 395 1/2p, may decide to top the agreed £2.1 billion offer by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for the Midland Bank lifted Midland 6p to 366p with more than 14 million shares changing hands.

William Purves, the chairman of the HSBC, the Hongkong Bank's parent, is warning Midland's shareholders that a rival bid from Lloyd's would almost certainly be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It is believed that Lloyd's will decide on Friday whether to make a bid. Some fund managers take the view that the terms from HSBC are too low.

The rest of the banks enjoyed selective support, with Barclays 1p dearer at 335p, National Westminster 6p at 325p, Royal Bank of Scot-



land 4p at 176p and Bank of Scotland 1p at 115p. Abbey National was a dull market, losing 11p to 299p after a gloomy annual meeting.

Wellcome fell 40p to £10.74 on worries about competition for Retrovir, its anti-Aids treatment. Hoffman La

Roche, the Swiss pharmaceuticals group, has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to market its own treatment, DDC. However, DDC can only be administered after being mixed with Retrovir. In fact, the FDA is insisting that

HK climbs to record

Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index shot up 95.94 points, or 1.88 per cent, to a record 5,189.03 at the close on a late spurt of overseas

demand for blue chips across the board. Brokers said the surge was probably due to lack of buying opportunities elsewhere. (Reuters)

the average daily dosage of Retrovir, when combined with DDC, be increased.

Hanson eased 2p to 234 1/2p as Hoare Govett, the company's broker, decided to trim its profit forecasts for the current year and next year by 5 per cent, to £1.13 billion and £1.27 billion respectively. This came as Hanson announced plans to raise £500 million by a fixed-rate bond.

This latest fundraising is bound to revive talk that the group may soon decide to dispose of its near 3 per cent stake in ICI, up 12p at £13.66. Hanson paid £11.94 for its stake last year, but will have to strip out the carrying cost.

Shares in Dowty, the aerospace and electronics group, climbed 11p to 145p, benefiting from more bid speculation. TI Group, down 1p at 716p, and Smiths Industries, 1p lower at 314p, are being tipped as possible predators.

annual meeting today. No names are being mentioned, but it is thought that the group has already had talks with Toyota of Japan and BMW, the German car manufacturer. The recession has hit sales of Rolls-Royce around the world and last year it lost £30 million, dragging the rest of the group into the red.

Silentnight, Britain's biggest supplier of beds, rose 5p to 236p after a buy recommendation from James Capel. The full-year figures, out soon, should make pleasant reading, with analysts forecasting pre-tax profits of at least £12 million for last year, against £11 million last time.

Davies & Newman, the Dan-Air airline operator, fell 11p to 90p after a warning that profits in the current year would fall materially below the forecast made last year.

TVS Entertainment moved deeper into the red. The shares rose 2p to 6p.

MICHAEL CLARK

New York — Shares remained under mild pressure in the late morning as investors consolidated their gains made last week. The Dow Jones Industrial average fell 5.25 points to 3,338.

□ Tokyo — Prices recovered

| | Apr 22 | Apr 21 | Apr 20 | Apr 19 | Apr 18 | Apr 17 | Apr 16 | Apr 15 | Apr 14 | Apr 13 | Apr 12 | Apr 11 | Apr 10 | Apr 9 | Apr 8 | Apr 7 | Apr 6 | Apr 5 | Apr 4 | Apr 3 | Apr 2 | Apr 1 | Mar 31 | Mar 30 | Mar 29 | Mar 28 | Mar 27 | Mar 26 | Mar 25 | Mar 24 | Mar 23 | Mar 22 | Mar 21 | Mar 20 | Mar 19 | Mar 18 | Mar 17 | Mar 16 | Mar 15 | Mar 14 | Mar 13 | Mar 12 | Mar 11 | Mar 10 | Mar 9 | Mar 8 | Mar 7 | Mar 6 | Mar 5 | Mar 4 | Mar 3 | Mar 2 | Mar 1 | Feb 28 | Feb 27 | Feb 26 | Feb 25 | Feb 24 | Feb 23 | Feb 22 | Feb 21 | Feb 20 | Feb 19 | Feb 18 | Feb 17 | Feb 16 | Feb 15 | Feb 14 | Feb 13 | Feb 12 | Feb 11 | Feb 10 | Feb 9 | Feb 8 | Feb 7 | Feb 6 | Feb 5 | Feb 4 | Feb 3 | Feb 2 | Feb 1 | Jan 31 | Jan 30 | Jan 29 | Jan 28 | Jan 27 | Jan 26 | Jan 25 | Jan 24 | Jan 23 | Jan 22 | Jan 21 | Jan 20 | Jan 19 | Jan 18 | Jan 17 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Jan 14 | Jan 13 | Jan 12 | Jan 11 | Jan 10 | Jan 9 | Jan 8 | Jan 7 | Jan 6 | Jan 5 | Jan 4 | Jan 3 | Jan 2 | Jan 1 | Dec 31 | Dec 30 | Dec 29 | Dec 28 | Dec 27 | Dec 26 | Dec 25 | Dec 24 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Dec 19 | Dec 18 | Dec 17 | Dec 16 | Dec 15 | Dec 14 | Dec 13 | Dec 12 | Dec 11 | Dec 10 | Dec 9 | Dec 8 | Dec 7 | Dec 6 | Dec 5 | Dec 4 | Dec 3 | Dec 2 | Dec 1 | Nov 30 | Nov 29 | Nov 28 | Nov 27 | Nov 26 | Nov 25 | Nov 24 | Nov 23 | Nov 22 | Nov 21 | Nov 20 | Nov 19 | Nov 18 | Nov 17 | Nov 16 | Nov 15 | Nov 14 | Nov 13 | Nov 12 | Nov 11 | Nov 10 | Nov 9 | Nov 8 | Nov 7 | Nov 6 | Nov 5 | Nov 4 | Nov 3 | Nov 2 | Nov 1 | Oct 31 | Oct 30 | Oct 29 | Oct 28 | Oct 27 | Oct 26 | Oct 25 | Oct 24 | Oct 23 | Oct 22 | Oct 21 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Oct 18 | Oct 17 | Oct 16 | Oct 15 | Oct 14 | Oct 13 | Oct 12 | Oct 11 | Oct 10 | Oct 9 | Oct 8 | Oct 7 | Oct 6 | Oct 5 | Oct 4 | Oct 3 | Oct 2 | Oct 1 | Sep 30 | Sep 29 | Sep 28 | Sep 27 | Sep 26 | Sep 25 | Sep 24 | Sep 23 | Sep 22 | Sep 21 | Sep 20 | Sep 19 | Sep 18 | Sep 17 | Sep 16 | Sep 15 | Sep 14 | Sep 13 | Sep 12 | Sep 11 | Sep 10 | Sep 9 | Sep 8 | Sep 7 | Sep 6 | Sep 5 | Sep 4 | Sep 3 | Sep 2 | Sep 1 | Aug 31 | Aug 30 | Aug 29 | Aug 28 | Aug 27 | Aug 26 | Aug 25 | Aug 24 | Aug 23 | Aug 22 | Aug 21 | Aug 20 | Aug 19 | Aug 18 | Aug 17 | Aug 16 | Aug 15 | Aug 14 | Aug 13 | Aug 12 | Aug 11 | Aug 10 | Aug 9 | Aug 8 | Aug 7 | Aug 6 | Aug 5 | Aug 4 | Aug 3 | Aug 2 | Aug 1 | Jul 31 | Jul 30 | Jul 29 | Jul 28 | Jul 27 | Jul 26 | Jul 25 | Jul 24 | Jul 23 | Jul 22 | Jul 21 | Jul 20 | Jul 19 | Jul 18 | Jul 17 | Jul 16 | Jul 15 | Jul 14 | Jul 13 | Jul 12 | Jul 11 | Jul 10 | Jul 9 | Jul 8 | Jul 7 | Jul 6 | Jul 5 | Jul 4 | Jul 3 | Jul 2 | Jul 1 | Jun 30 | Jun 29 | Jun 28 | Jun 27 | Jun 26 | Jun 25 | Jun 24 | Jun 23 | Jun 22 | Jun 21 | Jun 20 | Jun 19 | Jun 18 | Jun 17 | Jun 16 | Jun 15 | Jun 14 | Jun 13 | Jun 12 | Jun 11 | Jun 10 | Jun 9 | Jun 8 | Jun 7 | Jun 6 | Jun 5 | Jun 4 | Jun 3 | Jun 2 | Jun 1 | May 31 | May 30 | May 29 | May 28 | May 27 | May 26 | May 25 | May 24 | May 23 | May 22 | May 21 | May 20 | May 19 | May 18 | May 17 | May 16 | May 15 | May 14 | May 13 | May 12 | May 11 | May 10 | May 9 | May 8 | May 7 | May 6 | May 5 | May 4 | May 3 | May 2 | May 1 | Apr 30 | Apr 29 | Apr 28 | Apr 27 | Apr 26 | Apr 25 | Apr 24 | Apr 23 | Apr 22 | Apr 21 | Apr 20 | Apr 19 | Apr 18 | Apr 17 | Apr 16 | Apr 15 | Apr 14 | Apr 13 | Apr 12 | Apr 11 | Apr 10 | Apr 9 | Apr 8 | Apr 7 | Apr 6 | Apr 5 | Apr 4 | Apr 3 | Apr 2 | Apr 1 | Mar 31 | Mar 30 | Mar 29 | Mar 28 | Mar 27 | Mar 26 | Mar 25 | Mar 24 | Mar 23 | Mar 22 | Mar 21 | Mar 20 | Mar 19 | Mar 18 | Mar 17 | Mar 16 | Mar 15 | Mar 14 | Mar 13 | Mar 12 | Mar 11 | Mar 10 | Mar 9 | Mar 8 | Mar 7 | Mar 6 | Mar 5 | Mar 4 | Mar 3 | Mar 2 | Mar 1 | Feb 28 | Feb 27 | Feb 26 | Feb 25 | Feb 24 | Feb 23 | Feb 22 | Feb 21 | Feb 20 | Feb 19 | Feb 18 | Feb 17 | Feb 16 | Feb 15 | Feb 14 | Feb 13 | Feb 12 | Feb 11 | Feb 10 | Feb 9 | Feb 8 | Feb 7 | Feb 6 | Feb 5 | Feb 4 | Feb 3 | Feb 2 | Feb 1 | Jan 31 | Jan 30 | Jan 29 | Jan 28 | Jan 27 | Jan 26 | Jan 25 | Jan 24 | Jan 23 | Jan 22 | Jan 21 | Jan 20 | Jan 19 | Jan 18 | Jan 17 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Jan 14 | Jan 13 | Jan 12 | Jan 11 | Jan 10 | Jan 9 | Jan 8 | Jan 7 | Jan 6 | Jan 5 | Jan 4 | Jan 3 | Jan 2 | Jan 1 | Dec 31 | Dec 30 | Dec 29 | Dec 28 | Dec 27 | Dec 26 | Dec 25 | Dec 24 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Dec 19 | Dec 18 | Dec 17 | Dec 16 | Dec 15 | Dec 14 | Dec 13 | Dec 12 | Dec 11 | Dec 10 | Dec 9 | Dec 8 | Dec 7 | Dec 6 | Dec 5 | Dec 4 | Dec 3 | Dec 2 | Dec 1 | Nov 30 | Nov 29 | Nov 28 | Nov 27 | Nov 26 | Nov 25 | Nov 24 | Nov 23 | Nov 22 | Nov 21 | Nov 20 | Nov 19 | Nov 18 | Nov 17 | Nov 16 | Nov 15 | Nov 14 | Nov 13 | Nov 12 | Nov 11 | Nov 10 | Nov 9 | Nov 8 | Nov 7 | Nov 6 | Nov 5 | Nov 4 | Nov 3 | Nov 2 | Nov 1 | Oct 31 | Oct 30 | Oct 29 | Oct 28 | Oct 27 | Oct 26 | Oct 25 | Oct 24 | Oct 23 | Oct 22 | Oct 21 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Oct 18 | Oct 17 | Oct 16 | Oct 15 | Oct 14 | Oct 13 | Oct 12 | Oct 11 | Oct 10 | Oct 9 | Oct 8 | Oct 7 | Oct 6 | Oct 5 | Oct 4 | Oct 3 | Oct 2 | Oct 1 | Sep 30 | Sep 29 | Sep 28 | Sep 27 | Sep 26 | Sep 25 | Sep 24 | Sep 23 | Sep 22 | Sep 21 | Sep 20 | Sep 19 | Sep 18 | Sep 17 | Sep 16 | Sep 15 | Sep 14 | Sep 13 | Sep 12 | Sep 11 | Sep 10 | Sep 9 | Sep 8 | Sep 7 | Sep 6 | Sep 5 | Sep 4 | Sep 3 | Sep 2 | Sep 1 | Aug 31 | Aug 30 | Aug 29 | Aug 28 | Aug 27 | Aug 26 | Aug 25 | Aug 24 | Aug 23 | Aug 22 | Aug 21 | Aug 20 | Aug 19 | Aug 18 | Aug 17 | Aug 16 | Aug 15 | Aug 14 | Aug 13 | Aug 12 | Aug 11 | Aug 10 | Aug 9 | Aug 8 | Aug 7 | Aug 6 | Aug 5 | Aug 4 | Aug 3 | Aug 2 | Aug 1 | Jul 31 | Jul 30 | Jul 29 | Jul 28 | Jul 27 | Jul 26 | Jul 25 | Jul 24 | Jul 23 | Jul 22 | Jul 21 | Jul 20 | Jul 19 | Jul 18 | Jul 17 | Jul 16 | Jul 15 | Jul 14 | Jul 13 | Jul 12 | Jul 11 | Jul 10 | Jul 9 | Jul 8 | Jul 7 | Jul 6 | Jul 5 | Jul 4 | Jul 3 | Jul 2 | Jul 1 | Jun 30 | Jun 29 | Jun 28 | Jun 27 | Jun 26 | Jun 25 | Jun 24 | Jun 23 | Jun 22 | Jun 21 | Jun 20 | Jun 19 | Jun 18 | Jun 17 | Jun 16 | Jun 15 | Jun 14 | Jun 13 | Jun 12 | Jun 11 | Jun 10 | Jun 9 | Jun 8 | Jun 7 | Jun 6 | Jun 5 | Jun 4 | Jun 3 | Jun 2 | Jun 1 | May 31 | May 30 | May 29 | May 28 | May 27 | May 26 | May 25 | May 24 | May 23 | May 22 | May 21 | May 20 | May 19 | May 18 | May 17 | May 16 | May 15 | May 14 | May 13 | May 12 | May 11 | May 10 | May 9 | May 8 | May 7 | May 6 | May 5 | May 4 | May 3 | May 2 | May 1 | Apr 30 | Apr 29 | Apr 28 | Apr 27 | Apr 26 | Apr 25 | Apr 24 | Apr 23 | Apr 22 | Apr 21 | Apr 20 | Apr 19 | Apr 18 | Apr 17 | Apr 16 | Apr 15 | Apr 14 | Apr 13 | Apr 12 | Apr 11 | Apr 10 | Apr 9 | Apr 8 | Apr 7 | Apr 6 | Apr 5 | Apr 4 | Apr 3 | Apr 2 | Apr 1 | Mar 31 | Mar 30 | Mar 29 | Mar 28 | Mar 27 | Mar 26 | Mar 25 | Mar 24 | Mar 23 | Mar 22 | Mar 21 | Mar 20 | Mar 19 | Mar 18 | Mar 17 | Mar 16 | Mar 15 | Mar 14 | Mar 13 | Mar 12 | Mar 11 | Mar 10 | Mar 9 | Mar 8 | Mar 7 | Mar 6 | Mar 5 | Mar 4 | Mar 3 | Mar 2 | Mar 1 | Feb 28 | Feb 27 | Feb 26 | Feb 25 | Feb 24 | Feb 23 | Feb 22 | Feb 21 | Feb 20 | Feb 19 | Feb 18 | Feb 17 | Feb 16 | Feb 15 | Feb 14 | Feb 13 | Feb 12 | Feb 11 | Feb 10 | Feb 9 | Feb 8 | Feb 7 | Feb 6 | Feb 5 | Feb 4 | Feb 3 | Feb 2 | Feb 1 | Jan 31 | Jan 30 | Jan 29 | Jan 28 | Jan 27 | Jan 26 | Jan 25 | Jan 24 | Jan 23 | Jan 22 | Jan 21 | Jan 20 | Jan 19 | Jan 18 | Jan 17 | Jan 16 | Jan 15 | Jan 14 | Jan 13 | Jan 12 | Jan 11 | Jan 10 | Jan 9 | Jan 8 | Jan 7 | Jan 6 | Jan 5 | Jan 4 | Jan 3 | Jan 2 | Jan 1 | Dec 31 | Dec 30 | Dec 29 | Dec 28 | Dec 27 | Dec 26 | Dec 25 | Dec 24 | Dec 23 | Dec 22 | Dec 21 | Dec 20 | Dec 19 | Dec 18 | Dec 17 | Dec 16 | Dec 15 | Dec 14 | Dec 13 | Dec 12 | Dec 11 | Dec 10 | Dec 9 | Dec 8 | Dec 7 | Dec 6 | Dec 5 | Dec 4 | Dec 3 | Dec 2 | Dec 1 | Nov 30 | Nov 29 | Nov 28 | Nov 27 | Nov 26 | Nov 25 | Nov 24 | Nov 23 | Nov 22 | Nov 21 | Nov 20 | Nov 19 | Nov 18 | Nov 17 | Nov 16 | Nov 15 | Nov 14 | Nov 13 | Nov 12 | Nov 11 | Nov 10 | Nov 9 | Nov 8 | Nov 7 | Nov 6 | Nov 5 | Nov 4 | Nov 3 | Nov 2 | Nov 1 | Oct 31 | Oct 30 | Oct 29 | Oct 28 | Oct 27 | Oct 26 | Oct 25 | Oct 24 | Oct 23 | Oct 22 | Oct 21 | Oct 20 | Oct 19 | Oct 18 | Oct 17 | Oct 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23 | Jun 22 | Jun 21 | Jun 20 | Jun 19 | Jun 18 | Jun 17 | Jun 16 | Jun 15 | Jun 14 | Jun 13 | Jun 12 | Jun 11 | Jun 10 | Jun 9 | Jun 8 | Jun 7 | Jun 6 | Jun 5 | Jun 4 | Jun 3 | Jun 2 | Jun 1 | May 31 | May 30 | May 29 | May 28 | May 27 | May 26 | May 25 | May 24 | May 23 | May 22 | May 21 | May 20 | May 19 | May 18 | May 17 | May 16 | May 15 | May 14 | May 13 | May 12 | May 11 | May 10 | May 9 | May 8 | May 7 | May 6 | May 5 | May 4 | May 3 | May 2 | May 1 | Apr 30 | Apr 29 | Apr 28 | Apr 27 | Apr 26 | Apr 25 | Apr 24 | Apr 23 | Apr 22 | Apr 21 | Apr 20 | Apr 19 | Apr 18 | Apr 17 | Apr 16 | Apr 15 | Apr 14 | Apr 13 | Apr 12 | Apr 11 | Apr 10 | Apr 9 | Apr 8 | Apr 7 | Apr 6 | Apr 5 | Apr 4 | Apr 3 | Apr 2 | Apr 1 | Mar 31 | Mar 30 | Mar 29 | Mar 28 | Mar 27 | Mar 26 | Mar 25 | Mar 24 | Mar 23 | Mar 22 | Mar 21 | Mar 20 | Mar 19 | Mar 18 | Mar 17 | Mar 16 | Mar 15 | Mar 14 | Mar 13 | Mar 12 | Mar 11 | Mar 10 | Mar 9 | Mar 8 | Mar 7 | Mar 6 | Mar 5 | Mar 4 | Mar 3 | Mar 2 | Mar 1 | Feb 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Lloyds threatens banking choice

Midland Bank shareholders have some tough questions to face over the next few weeks. Is the best way forward for Midland to be cannibalised by its high street rival Lloyds or through a partnership with Hongkong Bank that will create a truly international group ranking among the dozen or so largest banks in the world?

This alternative is being offered in an oblique, unsatisfactory way via leaks from the highest levels inside the Lloyds boardroom through the bank's senior advisers. The delivery of the alternative to a bid from Hongkong Bank may be unconventional, but the message is obvious enough for all that. Lloyds has made it clear, mainly through briefings to the *Financial Times* that if Midland shareholders reject Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, then Lloyds stands ready to make an offer of its own. And Lloyds has already made at least one convert. Continuing in the idiosyncratic vein that led it to support Labour on election day, the FT yesterday advocated a bid by Lloyds that would probably lead to 20,000 job losses and a property blight on countless high streets in Britain.

It may be true that Lloyds could offer more to Midland shareholders than the terms currently on the table from Hongkong. Its shares are highly rated and at a premium to asset value. And that is quite properly a matter for Midland shareholders to consider. But it would be quite wrong to think that the regulators would give anything but short shrift to Lloyds. Viewed narrowly in terms of cost cutting and returns on capital, there might indeed be huge savings to be squeezed from a combined Midland/Lloyds. But then Britain's banking business would be a three-horse affair with customer choice and competition severely limited. The Lloyds line, when taken to its logical end, suggests that a banking monopoly might be a fine thing in terms of low cost high return banking.

There may indeed be overcapacity in personal banking thanks to the pressures from building societies. But trying to tell small businessmen that there are too many sources of mainstream banking finance. And with the withdrawal of the Japanese and some American capacity from the British market, even large corporate borrowers do not always find a great deal of significantly different alternatives at their disposal.

In truth, Lloyds may be motivated by the fear that post a Midland link with Hongkong Bank it will be the weakest of our leading banks. Lloyds badly needs a deal and may not worry too much about the social and other costs. But as our regulators know only too well, British business needs more choices and more competition in banking, not less.

Buoyant sterling

The pound is back above DM2.93, a level last seen in early September after the most recent cut in base rates. Refound confidence in Britain's economic and political prospects has coincided with a weaker mark to push sterling steadily towards its ERM central rate of DM2.95. Demand for pounds linked to big gilt issues and reduced hopes of a rushed base rate cut have helped too. Yet there appears to be a fundamental shift in market perception. It has sunk in that a new regime is in place. The revolution that swept France has crossed the Channel. The election left the government intact, but killed off the devaluationists. Britain's hope is that the pound will hold convincingly enough for the government to formalise the tighter ERM limits, and cut base rates, during the second half of this year, regardless of the Bundesbank, which may still be grappling with domestic problems.

The 'ultimate privatisation' is likely to be one of the trickiest as the market for coal shrinks, says Ross Ticeman

A warm, grit-filled gale blasts through the underground corridors of Maltby Colliery in Nottinghamshire. The floor is buckled upward underfoot, the roof supports twisted by settlement of the rock above. At the coal face, a miner guides the massive shearing machine that chews out the seam, pouring crushed coal on to a conveyor that sweeps the black rock away into the gloom.

Two other grimy figures advance the hydraulic roof supports as the cutting equipment makes progress. Behind them, the rock settles with creaks and groans, sending showers of grit through the gaps. At each end of the coal face, over a hundred feet apart, two gangs of men work to develop the access tunnels.

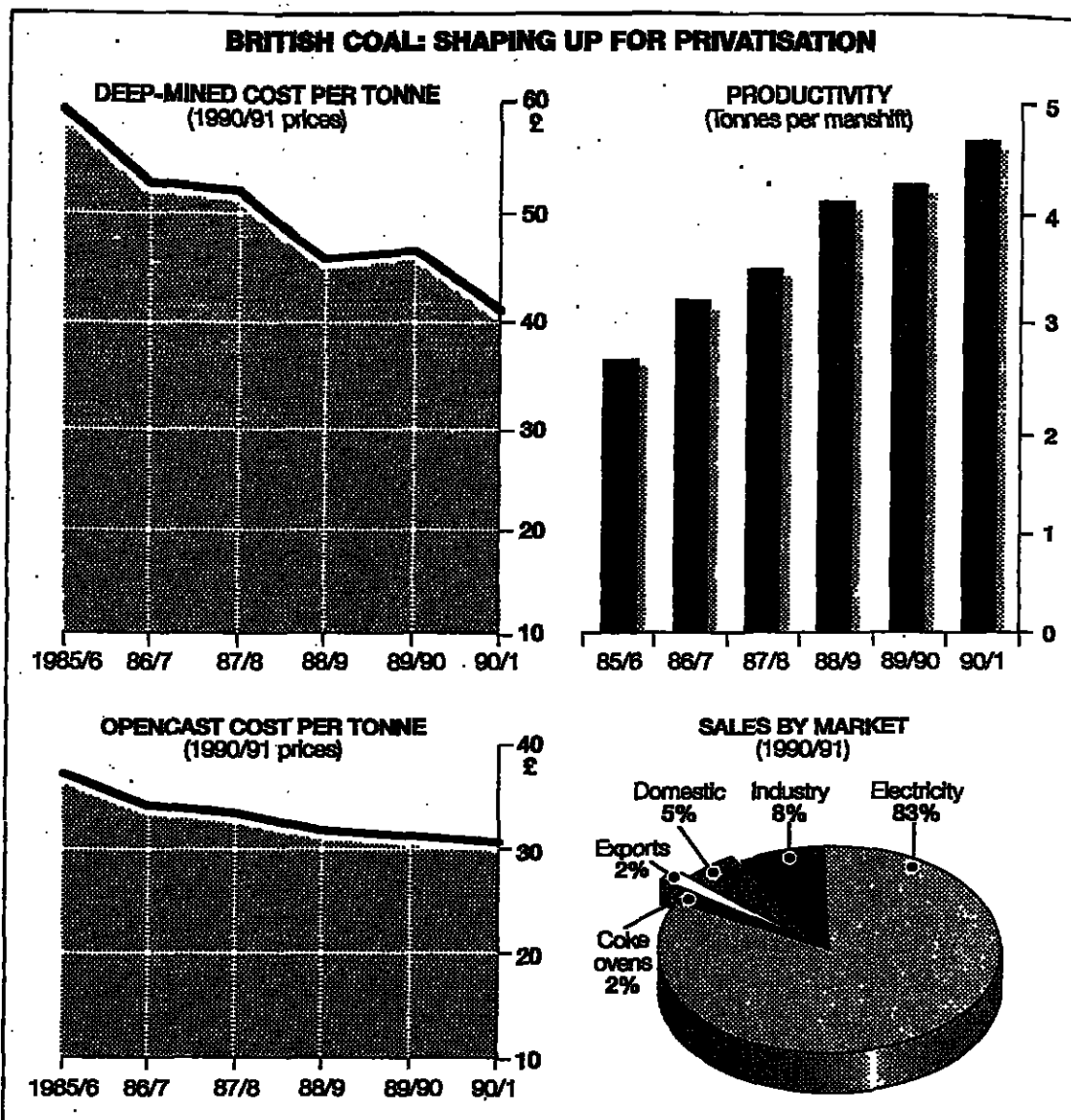
Despite the small number of workers in evidence, Maltby employs 1,200 men. Most are engaged in support operations: moving in supplies, building and repairing roadways, and developing new faces. The two cutting faces at the pit together produce more than 3,000 tonnes of coal a day, or 1.3 million tonnes a year, out of a total deep mine production by British Coal Corporation, the state mining company, of 70.5 million tonnes.

A year ago, BCC had 65 such mines. Today, there are 50. The number of miners has shrunk by 14,000 to 44,000, but a huge investment in improved technology has enabled BCC to maintain its output volume. That productivity programme will soon face the ultimate test: privatisation. The Queen's speech at the state opening of Parliament on May 6 is likely to contain an enabling bill paving the way to return BCC to the private sector.

The sale of British Coal, described by Cecil Parkinson, a former Conservative energy secretary, as the "ultimate privatisation", is being prepared. The minister charged with implementing Mr Parkinson's pledge to sell the business is Tim Eggar, who has been handed the energy portfolio in the expanded trade and industry department led by Michael Heseltine.

Mr Eggar has a reputation for being tough and determined. He is likely to need both those qualities for his task is daunting. Despite substantial productivity achievements since the end of the year-long pit strike in March 1985, British Coal is an uncompetitive business that faces the loss of a large chunk of its market.

In the year to end-March last year, for the first time in decades, BCC made an untaxed profit, of £78 million. This year's surplus will be even higher. But the financial pit



props that were put in place to protect British Coal before the privatisation of the electricity industry are already being undermined. The electricity generating industry accounts for more than 80 per cent of BCC sales. Two generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, are required to buy, in total, 65 million tonnes of British coal, and pay more than 50 per cent above the world market price.

When the three-year contract with these generators expires next March, the generators will hope to import as much coal as transport facilities permit. Coal from Australia, South Africa, China and South America is not only cheaper, it also has a lower sulphur content than the product of British mines. That can help the generators meet their obligations to cut emissions without building hugely expensive flue gas desulphurisation equipment at power stations.

Those same pressures to reduce emissions have helped usurp the role of coal as fuel of first choice for power generation, in favour of natural gas. But the "dash for gas", as Neil Clarke, BCC's chairman, has described it, also has roots in the structure of the power industry pri-

vatization. The concentration of ownership of all the coal-fired power stations in England and Wales in the hands of just two companies is a disaster for British Coal. Many of those coal-fired plants can produce cheaper electricity than gas-fired power stations because their construction costs have been written down. But would-be competitors cannot get their hands on them, so they have ordered gas-fired plants, which are relatively cheap to build. To protect their competitive position, and comply with new emissions standards, National Power and PowerGen have also ordered gas-fired plants.

At present, the amount of gas-fired capacity is small. By 1996, it is estimated, gas-fired power stations will account for 10,000 megawatts of generating capacity, almost a fifth of the total in England and Wales. But because much of the plant will run flat out, round the clock, and because nuclear plants are ring-fenced from competition, the impact on coal-fired plants will be disproportionately high.

Whatever the effort to improve productivity and cut costs by the

miners at Maltby, and elsewhere, coal will be shut out of a large part of its traditional market.

NM Rothschild, the merchant bank, was hired by the government to draw up plans for the privatisation of British Coal. In its first report, which was leaked, Rothschild calculated that by the mid-1990s there could be as few as 14 deep mines in Britain, assuming opencast production remained at about 15 million tonnes a year.

Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's former commercial director, told a Commons committee that sales of coal for power generation might be little more than 30 million tonnes by 1996. Mr Clarke insists that the outlook is less gloomy, but in statement after statement he has insisted that the future size and shape of the business depends on the contracts that it is able to negotiate with the generators. With the uncertainty aroused by the election out of the way, those negotiations will now begin in earnest.

British Coal has reduced its prices by 37 per cent in real terms since the end of the strike. The corporation has the advantage of being able to offer firm prices in sterling, linked to the retail prices index. The volumes

the corporation is able to sell in the next three years will depend on its ability to offer further price cuts so as to discourage coal importing. Steady improvements in productivity will enable further price cuts, but not to world market levels.

Beyond the mid-1990s, when the gas-fired plants come on stream, it appears that the shrunken UK coal market will offer only limited scope for sales. Uncertainties over possible sales volumes and prices have to be reduced before Mr Eggar can take decisions about an appropriate structure for the British Coal sale.

Some steps are clear. The company's responsibility for licensing exploitation of coal reserves must be removed, and retained by the state. So must liability for subsidence from its past activities.

Beyond that, however, Mr Eggar faces tough decisions about how best to sell the business. The minister will be urged to do his best to promote competition, while at the same time preserving a business unit, or units, large enough to be commercially viable. He will also be keen to honour the Conservatives' manifesto commitment to give management and workforce a decent stake in the business.

In its first report, Rothschild said the opencast operations, which are profitable, and can match world market prices, should be retained to underpin the deep mines, which have higher costs.

However, the study also highlighted the attractions of splitting the corporation into at least two units. If the corporation's markets are savagely reduced, that may not be possible. New techniques, such as retreat mining, have reduced the uncertainty over the quality of coal seams. But geological faulting and operational imperatives inevitably cause disruption to output from individual pits from time to time.

For that reason, pits need to operate in clusters. In addition, many pits are virtually dedicated to the supply of a particular power station, or group of power stations. The minister's freedom to package pits into groups for sale will be severely constrained. Nonetheless, he may well be able to split the business into two or three parts.

Given all the uncertainties, these are unlikely to be suitable for stock market flotation. A trade sale, to one or more international groups with mining interests, such as Hanson or RTZ, may be possible. A foreign buyer, or buyers, might bring useful management skills to help improve competitiveness. But a management and employee buyout might be even more effective in securing the commitment and flexibility needed to improve competitiveness. In practice, several of these may well be used together.

The miners at Maltby know that the coal industry after privatisation will be smaller still than it is today. They have no way of knowing, however, whether their pit will be part of it, or whether it will be just another name on the long list of closures.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Women of substance

THE May edition of *Esquire* magazine is offering a gold-digger's guide to Britain's most eligible millionaire heiresses for young men tired of trying to make a fortune of their own. Top of the list is Paul McCartney's daughter, Mary, 23, who, like her brother, stands to inherit £190 million. Others on the magazine's list worth the chase are the Rothschild sisters, Hannah, 30, Beth, 28, and Emily, 25, daughters of Jacob, now Lord Rothschild. Each could receive about £140 million, the magazine says, if their father shared his fortune instead of leaving it to his son, Nathan. Next come Jessica Sainsbury, 22, worth up to £15 million, and Anita Roddick's daughters, Justine, 23, and Samantha, 21, who should each inherit £55 million. The magazine cautions, however, against any rash pursuit of Natasha Cairne, 18, daughter of actor Michael. According to *Esquire*, Natasha could inherit £13 million but the magazine says it would be an intrepid suitor who tried to take advantage of her while her father is still around. "I know the tricks men get up to," he is quoted as saying. "Been there, seen it, done it. Hell, I invented some of those moves."

Wet nurse

NIGEL Fox-Bassett, senior partner at Clifford Chance, the law firm, was agitated yesterday to learn of speculation that his male colleagues had voted overwhelmingly in favour of having a swimming pool rather than a creche in



"The only encouraging money supply figures are Lord Hanson's."

ed in having to go to work with tiny tots. "I think my wife and myself would probably have felt that way," he says. "Many of the married people here seem to feel that way too."

A SENIOR stockbroker employed by County NatWest Securities was overheard at a dinner party in Chelsea saying: "Unless NatWest Bank improves its performance within the next two years, we're going to close it down."

Baby boom

BANKERS Trust has donated £40,000 to St Thomas's Hospital as part of the Tommy's campaign to help fund a National Centre of Excellence in Fetal Health. The donation means the bank will be the first City donor to have a delivery room named in its honour but says it has no plans as yet to set up silver spoon bank accounts for Bankers Trust babies or to keep tabs on them as potential clients and employees. "It's a wonderful idea but we hadn't thought of anything like that," a spokesman says. "We were just delighted to support such a good cause." The Tommy's campaign, launched in March by Rupert Hambro, the banker, takes the form of a City-styled "offer" with leading financial institutions being asked to subscribe for donation units of £5,000 each. In order to have a delivery room or operating theatre inscribed with their name, donors must subscribe to five or more units. The fund hopes to raise £500,000 by the time the "offer" closes in December.

CAROL LEONARD

It is not only names who suffer

From Mr Theo Sanders

Sir, So, ruined Lloyd's names are considering their dwindling options - why are they so special, to be pitied so?

Do they not share the real world of all small company directors and the self-employed, whose bank managers and landlords (institutional) assert their rights to unlimited guarantees in support of overdrafts and rent.

Do the public and politicians realise that when small businesses are forced out of business in their tens of thousands, tens of thousands of directors are indeed ruined. They will have faced ruin for months, they may be excel-

lent craftsman or manufacturers, they may be excellent entrepreneurs and businessmen, finding jobs for their small staffs and riches for the country through the taxes they pay.

But bad luck, a recession and a couple of bad debts and they and their families are personally ruined.

There is no sympathy, no strings to pull, no High Court appeal. The savings went earlier, the house goes, the car has gone.

Yours faithfully, THEO SANDERS, Apperley Housing Ltd, Alpha Works, Alstone Lane, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

The Lloyd's gamble

From Mr Jeremy Glyn

Sir, When considering my Lloyd's losses, I do not share the sense of betrayal felt by the likes of Mr Duxon-Forsyth (Business Letters, April 21). Membership of Lloyd's can be compared to Russian roulette, in which the risk of fatality can be reduced by careful selection in the calibre of the weapon and the size of the magazine. Those that take part are aware that injury cannot in the long term be avoided.

Unlucky names may have suffered from dubious underwriting, others through bizarre court rulings, unforeseen hazards and natural phenomena. Surely the majority of us, however, have, in line with insurance market trends, incurred losses which cause us to be facing self-inflicted wounds.

I expect Lloyd's, like any organisation, to make appropriate improvements in their service as legislation, the market and technology allow. Where change also, sadly,

seems to be needed is in the attitude of some members to their original commitment. I have always understood that my deposit, and any reserves I built up, were there to be used in the event of significant losses. Unless I and others pay up, how can Lloyd's survive long enough to introduce the changes needed?

Yours faithfully, JEREMY GLYN, 8 Guion Road, SW6.

From Mr L. A. Simpson

Sir, The recent press coverage of the financial disaster threatening thousands of Lloyd's names reminds me of a similar predicament I faced at my local turf accountant.

I placed a tanner to win on a tip I was given for the 3.30 at Newmarket. The silly old filly came in fifth and, can you believe it, the bookmaker refused to refund me my stake. Not only that, he insisted that I refund some of my previous winnings.

Yours faithfully, L. A. SIMPSON, 115 Lavender Sweep, SW11.

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ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Seize your chance now to make auditors an effective police force

Dear Michael,

It will be good to have an interventionist at the DTI. Next best thing to a Labour minister and an end to the joke "an empty taxi drew up at the DTI and the Secretary of State got out".

The "hands off" strategy which made yours the Department of Timidity and Inactivity has been particularly disastrous in accountancy and audit. Audit has become a joke with companies collapsing weeks after audits, accountancy a form of creative fiction and regulation through trade association a farce. Yet every time another item was added to the catalogue of slackness, the DTI's response has been "nothing to do with us — give the new structures a chance". Presumably to fail again.

You won't make that mistake. Now the dry Thatcherites have been ousted from the DTI, you have a chance to actually do something to protect investors, pensioners, creditors and employees by tackling vested interests. The account-

ing industry will do its utmost to oppose reforms. Yet now you've begun reform in your empire you could not do better than put them first on the agenda.

The UK has more accountants per capita than anywhere else in the world. Nearly 200,000 and increasing, all brought up on a diet of professional pronouncements and learning technical rules by rote which take precedence over reflective thinking. We have too little meaningful accounting, auditing and accountability and six accountancy bodies. None of their presidents, vice-presidents or deputy presidents are directly elected by members. They act as quasi-regulators but are trade associations. The public has no right of entry to their meetings or to any information. Yet such people are privileged by DTI consultative processes.

More than twenty bodies regulate financial services. In accountancy, the five recognised supervisory bodies are all self-regulating, yet all oppose reform

of the kind I believe is necessary. In previous incarnations, you managed to impose a duty upon local authority auditors to detect material fraud and report on organisational efficiency. Is it not time to do the same for PLC auditors?

The current way of appointing auditors is nonsensical. Despite the fiction

see compulsory rotation of auditors' terms, it would give them a backbone and stop collusive relationships.

You and I have long advocated audit committees for all PLCs. If they consist of representation from a wide variety of constituencies they would also be an improvement in company democracy as

more lucrative services. Yet such a state of affairs is a norm in the auditing industry. PLC auditors should act exclusively as auditors. I am glad to see you believe auditors "ought to be debarré from doing any other work for a company for which they act as auditors".

Economic decline cannot be separated from institutional arrangements. The accountancy trade associations have created an expectations gap. They reduced auditor responsibilities. Audit policymaking is under the control of the accountancy trade association. Secrecy rules the day. "Passive" auditing standards are preferred. An independent investigation of the abuse of auditing standards will not go amiss.

Auditing monitoring is a joke. The ICAEW cannot simultaneously act as a trade association and a public policy maker and regulator. Such conflicts of interests are well known to you. Indeed you wrote "I believe the government is fighting a rearguard action to preserve

self-regulation, and that the fight is not worth winning". Self-regulation cannot work where big money is concerned and big firms are effectively outside control. We must have independent regulation of the auditing industry, if they are to be brought to book and if the public are to have confidence in it.

The 1990 Caparo case makes a mockery of accountancy. Auditing firms made billions from their statutory monopoly of the external audit function but thanks to your government's policies, they are not required to publish one iota of information about themselves. Your book talks about enhancing accountability of all producers and businesses. Now is your chance. Seize it.

Make audit and accountancy the effective police force of what will become a much healthier capitalism if they do their job properly.

Yours sincerely,
Austin Mitchell

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP and long-time scourge of accountants, writes an open letter to Michael Heseltine, the new trade secretary

of the Companies Acts, directors hire and fire auditors. Hardly desirable. In your 1987 book *Where There's a Will*, you advocated creation of an "independent organisation" (p. 126) for appointment of auditors to give them independence and backbone. An Audit Commission for PLCs would be a step in the right direction. Like you, I would like to

well as a control, for this alone can provide internal investigation of standards. The role of internal auditors would also be enhanced if they report to the audit committee.

It is unhealthy for auditors to sell non-auditing services to their audit clients. It degrades audit, making it a cut-price exercise to get a foot in the door to sell

No guarantees, but still the best training for business

Despite few jobs in accountancy, the profession's lure is still strong says Jon Ashworth

Accountancy has always been seen as a ticket to wealth and prosperity. A grounding in finance, the argument goes, paves the way for a successful career, and many of Britain's top businessmen got where they have thanks to an accountancy qualification.

But times have changed, and competition is more intense today than ever before. More and more graduates are discovering a background in accountancy no longer guarantees a job, let alone a well-paid one. A leap in redundancies at the Big Six and other firms have pushed graduates on to the street and the question must be asked: has accountancy had its day?

Yes and no, is the answer. Yes, it is harder to find a job these days and demand for accountants is nothing like it used to be. But for a grounding in general business, an accountancy qualification is very hard to beat.

Sir Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo, is one example of a chartered accountant who has worked his way up through the ranks. He heads a body of about 40 high-ranking chartered accountants working in business who are called on from time to time to advise on the role of the auditor, financial reporting and other topical issues.

Colleagues on the advisory body include Dudley Eustace, former finance director of British Aerospace, Brian Hardy, Burmah Castrol's finance director, and Colin Short, finance director of ICI. They, in turn, work closely with Peter Davis, chairman of the Board for Chartered Accountants in Business.

Mr Davis, a non-executive director of Abbey National and finance director and deputy chairman of Sturge Holdings, fell into accountancy after leaving Oxford. Accountancy may not make you a millionaire, he says, but can leave you very comfortably off. "Clearly it has provided an extremely good general business training for a lot of people who have left practice," said Mr Davis, 50, who switched from practice to industry after 17 years with Price Waterhouse, even though such a move no longer



er necessarily guarantees a huge pay rise.

"I would be earning 50 to 100 per cent more had I stayed on," said Mr Davis, who left Price Waterhouse in 1980. "Look how much partners in law firms earn on average. The average earnings per partner at a firm like Slaughter & May is likely to be £250,000-£325,000."

"Let's say accountants earn £150,000-£300,000 on average. You can't possibly compare that with industry since it would exclude pensions, company cars and so on, but I still think a senior partner in practice would do much better than a senior accountant in business. You do not get people on the practice side earning the £1.4 million or £800,000. That's for the entrepreneurs, not the chartered accountants."

Like many of his contemporaries, Mr Davis fell into accountancy for want of something better to do. After read-

ing law at Oxford in the sixties, he "got bored" with the syllabus and was advised that three years studying accountancy would give him time to decide the next steps. "Probably 70 per cent of people who go into accountancy do so for this reason. It's a good general introduction to business, broadly based, a good qualification."

More than a decade as a partner with Price Waterhouse led on to another extreme selling carpets. Mr Davis joined Harris Queensway as deputy chairman in 1980, going on to sell carpets "in enormous quantities and very bad taste" before leaving in 1987, well before the company was sold to James Gulliver. "I got out in a respectable time. I did not make a lot of money, but that's not what accountants are for. The way you really make money is by owning

and building up a business. You will be rewarded for it, but you're never going to be a multi-millionaire."

Accountancy may be more difficult to get into these days, but the rewards are worth it. Finance directors of the top 500 British companies can expect to earn £75,000-£150,000, financial controllers £50,000-£125,000.

The carpet industry led Mr Davis to the different world of the Lloyd's insurance market. "Sturge is a totally different business," he said. "If you're the money-man, you can make that transition. My knowledge of carpets was pretty limited, but it doesn't mean you don't have a contribution to make with regards to running the business."

The value of an accountancy training as a good general background for business cannot be denied. "It's not as easy as it was. There is a recession and it's not as comfortable as it used to be, but it

does not invalidate the basic experience."

Thirty years ago, it was very different. "In the early sixties, there was a feeling among trainees that everyone was crying out for our services. Today, graduates are finding it difficult to get a job at all." Redundancies are growing. Last month, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock announced it was cutting up to 250 jobs. Junior accountants at Price Waterhouse are encouraged to take unpaid leave or extended holidays as there is not enough work to go round. Up to 3,000 redundant accountants are thought to be kicking their heels.

Accountancy firms have been criticised for making vast sums out of corporate collapses. The demise of Polly Peck International, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and others has tarnished their image. Touche Ross is being sued by the government for negligence over the collapse of Barlow Clowes, and others, like Stoy Hayward, have seen a succession of embarrassing lapses.

This aside, accountancy lends itself to variety in business. Richard North had little idea that training as an accountant would lead to a career as one of the City's top advisers on mergers and acquisitions. Mr North, now group finance director at Burton, the High-Street retailer, ran the M&A department at Coopers & Lybrand during the eighties.

"Chartered accountancy is undoubtedly a valid qualification," said Mr North, aged 42, who graduated from Cambridge with an engineering degree in 1971 and, like Mr Davis, was not sure what he wanted to do. A decade later, as a partner of Coopers & Lybrand, he was at the forefront of some of Britain's biggest bids, advising, among others, on Minorco's battle for Consolidated Gold Fields and Sir James Goldsmith's bid for BAT Industries.

"I had a taste of tax, treasury, M&A, strategy," said Mr North. "It was pretty varied. I know my way around the City backwards." Within weeks of joining Burton, he was advising on the sale of Harvey Nichols. "You can never substitute professional qualifications for ability, though the right experience obviously helps. Getting up through an organisation with a financial background helps enormously, but you've got to be commercial. Number-crunchers don't get up through the ranks."

Same old story on what to disclose

ONE of the most stultifying aspects of the accountancy profession is its inbuilt opposition to the disclosure of information.

This stems from the early training of accountants when examinations test knowledge of the minimum, rather than the maximum, amount of financial information companies legally have to disclose. Nowhere is this more apparent than in industry and commerce where finance directors traditionally combine a reluctance to disclose any more than the law insists with an arrogance over their right to deny shareholders, analysts and users enough useful information.

But cultures change. The new financial reporting regime in this country is dedicated to the task. Unfortunately accountants in industry have been slow to publicly acknowledge this. The Accounting Standards Board has recently been receiving the main responses to its exposure draft on *The structure of financial statements—reporting of financial performance*. It might have hoped that finance directors had grown up and realised that this time around they would no longer get away with their traditional games in attempting to avoid disclosure. But instead the ASB has seen all the old rubbish reiterated. In the days when financial reporting rules had no real teeth finance directors would always come up with the tired old chestnut that while they of course agreed greater disclosure was of paramount importance they felt the particular rules which had been promulgated should be urgently placed in a wastepaper bin.

It had been hoped this time around things might be different. But no. Take, for example, the dispute over "revenue investments". The ASB proposes that companies should disclose what they have spent on areas like research and development, training, advertising and marketing.

To the rest of us this would seem straightforward. There would be no difficulty for a company in producing the figures. It would be a question of looking up the relevant accounts, extracting the figure and placing it in the published accounts. But no. The responses to the ASB from both the 100 group of finance directors and the CBI produce exactly the sort of excuses we had hoped would vanish under the new regime. Listen to the arrangement of Nigel Stapleton, the chairman of the 100 group's technical committee, in his response: "My committee does not consider disclosure of these items in the manner proposed in the exposure draft is helpful to the reader of accounts."

The term revenue investment is potentially confusing — the expense items specified may have little or only short-term deferred benefit. The subjective judgments on classification would lead to inconsistent and

misleading disclosure between companies. Also we are concerned that UK companies may be obliged to release commercially sensitive information to their competitors, while our European neighbours impose no such regulations."

The arrogance on the same subject in the CBI's response is even more breathtaking. It says: "Potential usefulness to the reader cannot be the sole criterion for determining what should be required in published information and should be balanced by issues relating to difficulty, expense, competition and normal management confidentiality." Or, to put it another way, self-interest.

You will not be surprised to hear that both organisations reach similar conclusions. The 100 group says: "We suggest that these proposals be dropped from this standard," and the CBI says: "Because the proposals are sensitive to the best interests of UK

businesses and will be complex and difficult to implement we believe the issue should be deferred for further consideration." It is almost a caricature of the old attitudes towards disclosure — "Damned imperitiveness, they want us to tell our shareholders how much of their money we've spent on advertising." And if you think that is wide of the mark listen to another extract from the CBI's response. If the information is published "it will undoubtedly be used by commentators and others for making comparisons which are likely to be inaccurate, giving rise to demands for further demands for information." To which one can only respond: "Arrogant nonsense" and "Why not?"

Back in the real world things are rather different. If you talk to the large audit firms you find that the work of the review panel of the Financial Reporting Council has had a dramatic effect. Even the most respectable of companies would seem to be having a quiet word with their auditors to see if perhaps a bit more disclosure on a variety of topics might not be in order. No one wants to be the next company to see its reputation and share price go tumbling because the panel has put a shotgun blast through its accounts.

And finally the finance directors should listen to the Institutional Shareholders' Committee. Representing most of the organisations which invest massively in the corporate sector it has a simple message when it comes to the matter of disclosure by companies they own. They want more of it. They want finance directors to rid themselves of the old culture which meant that every new bit of financial disclosure had to be dragged out of them. They want them to get on with their job of producing the information and making it available.

The author is Associate Editor of *Accountancy Age*.



ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Witchell has it taped

NICHOLAS Witchell, BBC's Breakfast News front-man has the answer for budding accountants who have reading difficulties, or are simply keen to dispose of some surplus cash. They can now tune into him — and keep up to date with developments in the world of finance. Witchell has lent his services to The Accountant's Education Channel, a subscription service which uses a monthly video to help viewers keep up with changes in the profession. But at a cost of up to £1,500 plus VAT for 11 three-hour videos, it may be cheaper to nip down to the library or read newspapers. One can only hope the information on the videos is superior to the blurb which accompanies it. An introductory note says you can play the video "at the office or at home — in fact anywhere you have a video player." Thanks for the advice. Details from Television Education Network of Covent Garden.

Croydon, please

LIFE insurance salesmen fly off to the Caribbean and other exotic spots at the drop of a hat for "motivation" conferences. Accountants are

lucky if they make it to Croydon. But senior members of the profession would like nothing more than a week's "management training" out of the office, according to a survey by *Accountancy* magazine. Most accountants favour an external training course over an internal one but can't decide which are more effective. Nearly two-thirds of accountants in industry who were quizzed think external courses good value for money. Even though the recession has hit recruitment and salary levels, senior accountants in practice and industry believe management training is as important an investment as any other business expenditure, the survey found.



Screams on hold

THREE years from now, the accountancy profession will be screaming for talent says Andrew Darnhill, managing editor of *Accountancy* magazine, who advises disgruntled trainees to hang in there. "The profession operates on a cyclical basis, recruitment demand will remain static until the current backlog of three years' worth of accountancy graduates has been taken up. There will then be another famine of qualified accountants," he says. Be that as it may, opportunities for newly-qualified are at present so limited that employers can name their rates. Experienced staff made redundant are taking salary cuts to find jobs so talent is available at bargain basement prices. Exceptions are the specialised fields of forensic accounting and personal taxation which have enjoyed a good run.

THE tussle to outdo each other on the steppes continues as Arthur Andersen appoints Bob Kratoch as regional managing partner for Central and Eastern Europe. Kratoch will be based in Prague, complementing offices in Budapest, Moscow, St Petersburg, Warsaw and Zagreb.

JON ASHWORTH

Video culture eases the Eastern sell-off shock

By EDWARD FENNELL

ONE of the few precedents for the economic transformation of Eastern Europe is the British government's 1980s privatisation programme.

It is no coincidence, therefore that battle-hardened "privaters" from UK accountancy and consultancy partnerships are now playing a lead role in restructuring exercises in Warsaw, Budapest, Prague, and Moscow.

To help get across the idea of what "commercialisation" and "privatisation" mean, the consultants at Ernst & Young have developed a video package to provide the focus for the process of culture change which they are now undertaking with their clients.

Based primarily on their work with British state-owned enterprises in the 1980s, the videos offer a rough model of what East European managers can now expect as capitalism begins to take over from communism.

"Perhaps the most important message that comes out of the videos is that

privatised enterprises must develop a 'vision' of themselves and that all their activities must be related to that vision," says Eban Wilson, of Main Image, the production house which made the videos for Ernst & Young.

"The videos provide a teaching tool with which we can explain key parts of the commercialisation and privatisation process. Having got across the basic concepts, it is then easier to move on to discuss the issues in more detail with the managers of individual entities."

The use of the videos is being spearheaded by Eric Anstee, an Ernst & Young partner, who now spends most of his time gearing up East European management teams for the task ahead.

With the experience of United Kingdom privatisation behind him, he understands the fears and anxieties felt by individuals, and he also has a good grip of the blocks and obstructions which may be thrown up by the policy's opponents.

His appearance on the video, ex-

plaining how to circumvent obstacles set up by those with vested interests to protect provides encouragement to viewers who may feel overwhelmed by the difficulties.

By making heavy use of filming in Britain, however, the videos serve to underline the difference between West and East. Clips from the television advertisements used to promote British Steel, for example, come across in stark contrast to the shots of rundown plant in Czechoslovakia. And the British shopping mall scenes of consumer excess must appear like an obtainable dream to their eastern audience.

"The concept of the world changing all the time and the need to respond to that is one that managers in the East find hard to grasp — yet it is crucial to successful commercialisation," says Eban Wilson.

"What Ernst & Young have tried to do in the videos is get across the message of markets in a state of constant change by showing how it happens in Britain." Writing a script

— which has had to be translated into a variety of Eastern European languages, including Russian — presents interesting problems. It was important not to patronise viewers while not ignoring the fact that for most of them it would be brand new territory.

"We settled on thinking of our viewers as equivalent to good A-level students — an intelligent and committed audience, but addressing these issues for the first time," said Eban Wilson.

There is no disguising the promotional dimension to the videos. Staff from Ernst & Young are featured heavily and the viewer sees a lot of the firm's glittering London headquarters.

But as a way of illustrating the immense complexity of capitalism and the way a web of advisers is needed to make the financial system effective, the videos work well — just so long as the viewers don't decide that, whatever its shortcomings, life was a lot simpler under communism.

All Blacks strike form to level series

1FFDF CHOICE CHALLENGE 12 (D.F.)
 05P5F PLJAMAS 10 (D.F.)
 1-0213P BYAKES SON 20 (D.F.)
 13454G SKINWELL 21 (D.F.)
 12155S PEACEWORK 16 (D.F.)
 2452F STEPFATHER 31 (D.F.)
 2P3-580 IMPASTOR 63 (D.F.)
 454060 ZAM'S SLAVE 17 (D.F.)
 handicap Zam's Slave 9-6
 ING. 5-4 Stopleveler, 7-2
 others
 1991: INTERIOR LBS 6-10

Strip Cartoon to defy penalty

STRIP Cartoon looks a value proposition to end Double Blue's winning run in the George Cullington Handicap at Beverley today.

These two in-form sprinters have plenty in common, both carrying 7lb penalties here for their Easter weekend successes and both reverting from six furlongs to five.

Double Blue, unbeaten in three runs, was most impressive in landing a gamble in a revised Kempton handicap on Saturday but is sure to start a short-priced favourite here and there are reasonable grounds for opposing him.

Firstly, he is not well drawn in stall five of 14 on a course where a high draw is normally considered a big advantage.

Secondly, he will be racing on ground faster than he has encountered in his three wins and finally, he will be taking on older horses for the first time.

In contrast, Strip Cartoon bears a large field of seasoned campaigners at Nottingham on Monday and is well drawn here in stall ten. Prior to his Nottingham success, gained on good to soft going, he had run well on good ground at Thirsk when third to Slades Hill from a very bad draw.

Of the remainder, I have most regard for the veteran, Lady's Mantle, who won three races last season, two on southern raids. However, she is likely to need another run and faster ground before striking form and the two recent winners are preferred on this occasion.

Rousito is nominated as the day's best bet in the Brian Oughtred Handicap after two promising runs in better company. Reg Hollinshead's gelding found a mile too short

on his return when staying on into fourth behind King Of Chance at Doncaster and ran an even better race when third to Revit at Ripon, beaten two lengths and a neck.

While Rousito was undoubtedly flattered by his proximity to the subsequent impressive Rosebery Handicap winner, the opposition was considerably stronger than he meets here.

The form of the Ripon race has already been franked not only by the winner but by Crossillon (fifth), a close second to Barford Lad at Kempton on Monday, and by Admirals Seat (seventh), an impressive Haydock winner on Saturday.

Vague Dancer, last year's Cambridge third, was well behind Rousito in both his races this term and appears held, so a greater threat to my nap may be Supertop, a good second to Katy's Lad

(winner again since) at Pontefract 16 days ago.

Double's Image has an excellent chance of gaining his first turf success in the Charles Greig Handicap. The winner of five races on Ffresand at Southwell, Jeremy Glover's five-year-old has been running consistently well on turf this spring and a reproduction of last week's fifth to Mango Manilla at Newmarket might well be good enough.

Clive Britain's well-related newcomer Garden Of Heaven could surprise Wood Ditton sixth to the top in the Ald William Hodgson Maiden Stakes. Britain thinks enough of this Arctic Tern colt to have entered him for the Dante Stakes and the St Leger.

Miss Pham, a promising third to Oumaldaya on her Newmarket debut in November, holds an Oaks entry and looks best in the Captain Storie Maiden Fillies Stakes.

Mary Reveley has her Saltburn spring firing on all cylinders again and a treble from three runners at Perth looks a distinct possibility with Peacework (3.00), Flight Hill (3.30) and Swift Sword (4.30).

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McCarron steps in to ride Dr Devious in Kentucky

BY MICHAEL SEELY

CHRIS McCarron is to ride Dr Devious in the Kentucky Derby on Saturday week as Cash Assmusen is to remain in Europe to partner Suave Dancer in the Prix Ganay at Longchamp the next day.

It's all been confirmed and Chris will definitely ride, said Peter Chapple-Hyam yesterday. "Cash didn't think that it would have been fair on Suave Dancer's connections to have ridden in Kentucky at 10.30pm European time. He might not have got back."

Dr Devious is 10-1 fourth favourite with Hills for the Kentucky Derby, Arazzi headlined the market at 2-1 on with A B Lady 7-2 and Technology 7-1. For the Epsom Derby, Dr Devious is a 16-1 shot with Ladbrokes who price Arazzi at even, with a run.

Great Palm, currently a 20-1 chance for Epsom when second to Dr Devious in the Dewhurst Stakes last autumn, is to have his Derby

preliminary in the Dante Stakes at York.

"We had a bit of a fright last week," said Paul Cole. "He sustained an overreach on the gallops but is all right now and back in work."

Confirming that Dilum, one of last season's top two-year-olds until disappointing at York and Newbury, is on target for the 2,000 Guineas, the Wharfedale trainer added that he would be represented in Saturday's Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown by Jape.

By virtue of his win in a valuable ten-furlong race in Rome last autumn, the alleged colt will have to concede 5lb to the likes of Henry Cecil's Aljazeera and Richard Hannon's pair, Beyton and Assessor.

Although Aljazeera worked none too impressively with Pat Eddery in the saddle yesterday morning, Cecil said that the unbeaten three-year-old would still take his chance on Saturday.

Giving news of his Guineas candidates, the nine-times champion trainer said: "Pursuit Of Love and Muscular both worked well this morning. I might also still run Skimble but Sun And Shade is a definite absentee."

A gamble developed yesterday on one of Cecil's possible Oaks candidates, All At Sea, who won easily by five lengths at Nottingham recently.

Khaled Abdullah's filly was backed down from 33-1 to 14-1 favourite with Ladbrokes. "She's a nice filly but we'll have to wait and see just how good she is," said Cecil. "She'll next run in the Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket and after that in the Musidora Stakes at York."

On the Whitbread Gold Cup front, most of the money was for Topham Bay, who is now 4-1 joint-favourite (from 5-1) with Arctic Call with Ladbrokes. David Barons's stable is on the crest of a wave, having had five winners in the past seven days.

O'Sullivan is fined £1,000 over Scotoni

Criticism of vaccines countered

BY CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

ROLAND O'Sullivan, the Bognor Regis trainer, criticised Jockey Club justice yesterday after he was fined £1,000 and his nephew, jockey Darren O'Sullivan, £500 for not running a horse on its merits.

The pair were punished at a disciplinary committee enquiry investigating the performance of Scotoni in a handicap hurdle at Lingfield's all-weather meeting on January 14.

O'Sullivan said later: "I am told I was fined the minimum amount, but I do not think it is fair that these hearings are held behind closed doors and decided, not by an independent judge or jury, but by Jockey Club members."

He was both sick about it. After half-hour I felt they had already made their minds up. The trainers' federation should do something about it."

Scotoni, ridden by Darren

O'Sullivan, made late headway to finish third, beaten five-and-a-half lengths by Gina-Diane, but won his next race on the same course nine days later.

"I had no motive to stop the horse. It finished third in a handicap, having drifted out to 3-1 from 6-4, but every horse went out in the betting except the winner and that won its previous and next race. The runner-up won after that as well. It was a good race," he added.

"It was Scotoni's first race over all-weather hurdles. He'd never seen those plastic flights before so he was entitled to job about."

"Scotoni did win after that, but it was in a maiden hurdle. Horses are not machines. They have good days and bad days. They can't run the same race every time. The Jockey Club should have someone on the panel who understands horses."

Good Waters proves more than a match

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BEEL

FINE Lace, other than once unseating her rider at the last fence when in the lead, had been unbeaten in ten races before Tuesday.

She met her match, however, at the Pytelkey point-to-point when Good Waters, under John Sharp, gave her 7lb and rallied well to win the mixed open by two lengths.

Her owner rider, Jim Tarry, nevertheless, completed a double at the meeting.

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Adams and tailenders give West Indies a total to defend in historic Test match

Ambrose strikes to put pressure on South Africa

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS

SOUTH AFRICA, left to make 201 to win the Test match here yesterday, lost two early wickets.

Andrew Hudson, who made 163 in South Africa's first innings, was out off the second ball of their innings without scoring. Hudson was caught by Brian Lara off the bowling of Curtly Ambrose. South Africa were 27 for two when Ambrose struck again, bowling Mark Rutherford for three.

South Africa dismissed West Indies for 283 shortly after lunch on the fourth day yesterday. Jimmy Adams, playing his first Test match, finished 79 not out, with 12 fours, after battling three hours 40 minutes.

West Indies added a further 99 runs yesterday, with Adams sharing a tenth-wicket stand of 62 in 17 overs with Patrick Patterson. The gritty, late resistance by West Indies maintained the tension which has been present from the start of a remarkable game.

Barely 500 people were in the ground as the Barbados public's boycott over the exclusion from the West Indies team of Anthony Cummins continued.

Adams, a Jamaican left-hander, soon lost Benjamin,

his overnight partner. Walsh, though, another Jamaican, stayed ten overs in a ninth-wicket stand before Patterson, a third Jamaican, joined Adams in thwarting the South African attack. South Africa took a new ball after lunch but the total continued to mount.

Adams, aged 24, showed commendable determination and skill as he desperately fought to stretch the West Indies lead and simultaneously nurse his tailend partners. The South African bowlers failed to bowl a tight line on a wearing pitch on which the ball often tended to creep through low.

Adams did his best to shield Benjamin when West Indies resumed at 184 for seven. Donald and Bosch shared the attack on an overcast, windy morning and Benjamin had faced only seven balls when, in the day's sixth over, Donald had him leg-before against one that failed to lift. Benjamin had survived a similar appeal earlier in the over.

A no-ball by Donald took West Indies to 200 and they also benefited with four byes when Richardson was unable to deal with a leg-side ball from Bosch that scuttled

along the ground. Bosch bowled six overs for 15 runs before Pringle replaced him and had an appeal for a catch, behind against Adams rejected.

West Indies added 35 in the first hour before drinks were taken, after which Snell replaced Donald and dismissed Walsh with his second ball. Adams had allowed Walsh an equal share of the bowling but the fast bowler was unable to deal with a ball which lifted and left him. Richardson took a good catch diving to his right to give Snell his eighth wicket in the game, a memorable Test debut.

Adams clearly had less faith in Patterson's ability to stay long. Twice he spurned singles to keep the bowling and then promptly attacked Snell in the next over, which cost 15 runs. Adams began by lifting an on-drive into the vacant outfield and the batsmen were able to run four. Adams also cover-drove a four and earned another with an inside edge to the long leg boundary.

This unintentional shot took Adams to 52 after two hours 35 minutes. His fifty came from 117 balls and included eight fours.

Patterson drove Pringle for an unexpectedly classic four through the covers but then survived a hard, low chance to Hudson in the gully against the same bowler. Patterson was then eight and the total 249.

A long hold-up followed when Patterson had to be treated for a leg injury after being struck on the calf. By lunch, the last pair were together at 257 for nine.



Morning glory: Donald won a leg-before appeal in the sixth over of the day

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| WEST INDIES: First Innings 283 (K L T Arthurton 59, D L Hayden 30; R P Snell 4 for 84). | Second Innings |
| D L Hayden c Richardson b Snell 23 | P Patterson b Snell 10 |
| P V Simmons c Krieger b Bosch 3 | C L Adams not out 79 |
| B G Cummins c Richardson b Donald 54 | R P Snell not out 10 |
| R P Snell c Richardson b Snell 2 | K L T Arthurton b Donald 22 |
| K L T Arthurton b Donald 22 | C L Adams not out 79 |
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FILMS
Peter Weller:
mesmeric in
*The Naked
Lunch*



LIFE & TIMES

THURSDAY APRIL 23 1992

BOOKS
Antonia
Fraser on
Hugh Trevor-
Roper



Roald and the amazing musical rhymes

Little Red Riding Hood, pistol in knickers, is coming to London in a musical version of *Revolting Rhymes* to mark the launch of the Roald Dahl foundation: Simon Tait reports

The hut is as he left it: dingy, undusted, cherished, and with a slightly macabre air. In other words, evocative through and through of the spirit of Roald Dahl. Bits of his spine — mementoes of a lifelong struggle with being six-foot-six — are in jars next to a brass model of a Hawker Hurricane. That was the aeroplane in which he first damaged his back, as a fighter pilot 50 years ago. His mother's wing-back armchair has beside it the board on which he wrote, always in pencil. It still has his glasses on it, and his Anglepoise lamp peering over. An ashtray is placed nearby, full of his last dog-ends. On the walls are photographs of the people in his life. Inevitably there are lots of children, mostly his — and especially Olivia, who died from measles complications when she was seven.

Roald Dahl died on Children's Day, November 23, 1990, and left behind a unique legacy for the minds and sensibilities of children. He knew exactly how to gauge the degree of beastliness in story-telling that stops in the realm of delight just before crossing the forbidden frontiers of fear. He breached those frontiers only when he wrote for adults (the genre in which he first made his name) and created the television series *Tales of the Unexpected*.

Liccy Dahl would not sit in her husband's chair for our photograph. That would be almost like sitting on the throne. She perched on the arm instead. "He was appalled by the old nursery stories," she said. "He used to say 'Hansel and Gretel, do you know what happens in that? The witch tries to put the children in an oven and cook them.' He thought that was terrible."

He was equally appalled by the soporific of traditional children's stories. In 1982 he produced his own version, *Revolting Rhymes*, with the drawings of his friend Quentin Blake (ubiquitous in Dahl texts) adding to the comic spirit. The first begins:

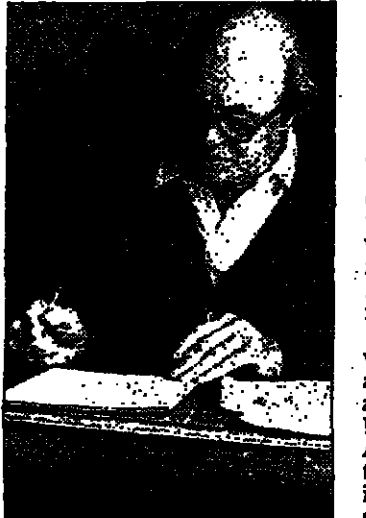
I guess you think you know this story.
You don't. The real one's much more gory.
The phoney one, the one you know,
Was cooked up years and years ago.
And made to sound all soft and sappy
Just to keep the children happy.

The ensuing tale — Dahl's "true" version of "Cinderella" — relates how the foot of one ugly sister does fit. But Prince Charming is so revolted at the idea of meeting his end of the deal that he chops her head off. Cinderella lives happily ever after all right, but married to a jam-maker.

Now *Revolting Rhymes* — complete with a Jack who defeats the blood-smelling giant at the end of

the beanstalk by having a bath first, a Snow White who breaks the bookmakers with the help of the prescient looking glass, a Goldilocks who is a burglar, and a pistol-toting Little Red Riding Hood — is coming to the concert hall. The London Philharmonic Orchestra has commissioned Paul Patterson to compose music to go with the rhymes. The piece has its premiere at the Royal Festival Hall on November 17 with the LPO conducted by its musical director, Franz Welser-Möst, and with Bob Hoskins one of the readers.

Roald talked about wanting to do this, but it was something he never got round to," Liccy says. "He was sick and tired of *Peter and the Wolf* and felt children deserved



'He always listened to music for an hour before lunch. Outside the greenhouse are the giant onions he loved to grow'

something new. He believed in music he used to say 'All children have a spark but it needs someone to light it', and he thought music was another flame."

The concert is significant for another reason, however. It will launch the Roald Dahl Foundation, which will help three areas about which Dahl was concerned. Neurology, which will be the first year's cause, was a subject about which Dahl felt particularly strongly. His first wife, Patricia Neal, suffered a series of strokes; his son, Theo, sustained severe head injuries in a road accident as a baby; and Liccy's daughter by her previous marriage died of a brain tumour six months before Dahl's own death. In subsequent years,

haematology will be a beneficiary because the writer died of leukaemia. And literacy was a personal crusade: he gave the royalties from *The Vicar of Nibbleswicke* for the treatment of dyslexia.

Dahl was born in Wales of Norwegian parents. When he was three his father died. He went to school at Repton but eschewed university to go on the Public Schools Exploring Society's expedition to Newfoundland. Then he joined Shell and went to work in Dar-es-Salaam until war broke out in 1939, when he joined the RAF.

He was invalided out of active service and was assistant air attaché in Washington in 1942, when C.S. Forester asked him for some notes about his most thrilling flying experience for a story that Forester was writing. "Forester told him a natural writer like Roald shouldn't be doing research for him, and he gave him some Hollywood contacts," his wife says.

Dahl's piece appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* untouched. In 1943 he wrote a book for Disney called *The Gremlins*. It was never filmed (although Dahl's invented word remained in someone's mind), but Dahl's career was set. He won the Edgar Allan Poe prize for mystery writers three times.

He began writing for children when his offspring arrived. There are reminders of Dahl stories all around his rambling home. The Dahl family have spread over the Atlantic now, but always keep in touch with Gipsy House, the home in Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, which he bought nearly 40 years ago and which grew with prosperity and the five children.

His enthusiasms are manifest everywhere at Gipsy House. He loved pictures, and the portrait of him by Matthew Smith, who "adopted" him during the war, hangs beside a Snowdon photograph and such treasures as a Francis Bacon and a Gauguin drawing. He always listened to music for an hour before lunch. Outside the greenhouse are the giant onions he loved to grow, successors in his affections to the orchids with which he lost patience.

His cellar has the mark of a serious claret connoisseur, a drinker rather than a taster judging by the quantity of St Emilion Grand Cru. He loved good food and one of his last books was about cookery, co-written with Liccy. Part of the proceeds from its sale will go to the foundation. The dining-room has a vast rustic table where Dahl reckoned 100 meals a week were served to friends and family, each meal ending with a box full of Smarties, Mars bars and Maltesers (ostensibly for his Jack Russell, Chopper, but passed round the board).

Wally Saunders, one of a series of local craftsmen who became ad hoc members of the family, built extra bits to the house over the years. "Wally was the BFG, the Big Friendly Giant," Liccy says. I



Liccy Dahl in front of a portrait of her husband: he had intended to create a children's musical alternative to *Peter and the Wolf*

thought Dahl had put himself in that role. "No, it was Wally," says Liccy. "It's his personality, you see." The BFG's little chum, Sophie, is Dahl's eldest grandchild, also Sophie. *Danny Champion of the World* was Theo, his son, and the gipsy caravan which features in the story stands in front of the house. The children still play on it.

Paul Patterson, who never met Dahl, has started work on the piece, and he takes his two children to play at Gipsy House while he seeks inspiration. He hopes this inspiration will produce a score that has elements of Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, Haydn's *Toy Symphony*, even Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, but is also new and unmistakably Dahl.

"Every time I go, I get something more about the man," he says. "The problem is going to be that the strong rhythms of the verse are so powerful. The music will have to be integrated with them. I can't let the music interfere with the words, and that seems to be exactly in Dahl's character."

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| Books | 4.5 |
| Appointments | 6-9 |
| Secretarial | 10 |
| TV, radio | 12 |

TOMORROW
The Valerie Grove Interview:
Ken Livingstone

Famous for 15 minutes in Walthamstow

Look, you reckon you know all about women," said an acquaintance who has obviously never read past the first paragraph of this column. "Give me a good chat-up line."

I was, for the briefest moment, flattered. More, I found it almost touching that this rather tongue-tied and fey man believed that there was a single combination of words which, scattered like some fairy dust over any given woman, would blind her to his haze of post-hippy white cheesecloth, his five-day stubble, the clumsiness of his conversation, the 40-a-day reek of tobacco, and allow him to strike up the sort of conversation with her that would finish up with them sharing a cab home. In fact, I found it rather touching that anybody still believed in the concept of the chat-up line at all.

It wasn't always thus. There was a time, if you can believe it, when I was famous for my chat-up line. Or, at least, a chat-up line.

And famous only if you allow notoriety within the confines of a particular pub in Walthamstow to count as fame. I had been talking to a girl (which is what we called women in 1971) at one of those crowded student parties where instead of giving out invitations, you sent a sort of verbal chain letter

around which results in everyone under the age of 30 from within a four-mile radius standing in a rented sitting room, each with a Party Seven under their arm, waiting for the single, bent can opener to be passed around.

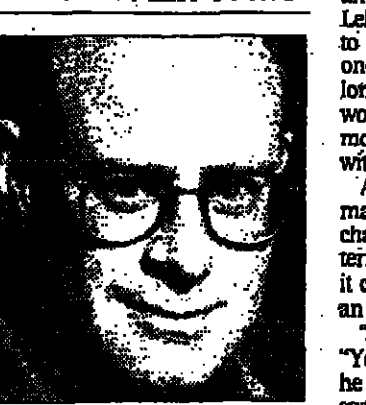
The two of us were getting on as well as two people can get on in the static equivalent of a Tokyo rush-hour tube train with *Hi-Ho Silver Lining* playing at concert hall pitch in the background, and so I could plight my transient troth only by leaning over and screaming in her ear.

Except that as I started to scream the clincher, *Hi-Ho Silver Lining* came to an end and, simultaneously, the rest of the room stopped screaming at each other too. In the silence my scream ricocheted around the peeling walls: "It's Like Waterloo Station Down Here. How About We Go Back To My Place?"

My brief subsequent fame didn't rest so much on the intrinsic Wildean wit of the line but on the fact that, to my amazement as much as anyone else's, it worked.

You couldn't do it now, of course. (Or I couldn't anyway, although for all I know there are 18-year-olds still in Walthamstow using the crass gambit and getting away with it.) The concept of a single, perfect

PRIVATE LIFE
John Diamond
amazes his friends
with a fine line or two



chat-up line is based on the fallacy that a man should be able to convey, within the time it takes for a woman to decide whether to pour her wine over his head, that despite the evidence of her ears and eyes, the chatter up is witty, attractive, intelligent, can stand his round, has immense stamina, hangs out with the right set and has no embarrassing personal habits. On this basis "how about you

and I jump in the Bentley, pop round to Kenneth and Emma's place to pick up Hugh and Stephen and then chez moi where, once I've got my man to clear the Nautilus bench out of the library, we can all spend the evening making clever anagrams out of the titles of Tom Lehrer songs — and I promise not to floss my teeth in front of you once" would be a good, if slightly long-winded, chat-up line. And it would, of course, produce nothing more erotic than a head dripping with Sancerre.

As I tried to explain to the fey man, if there is such a thing as a chat-up line (and the more I use the term here the worse it sounds) then it can only ever be used to cement an unspoken relationship.

"No, no," said the fey man. "You've got it wrong. You see... he looked around the bar and his eyes settled on a caricature blonde primly adjusting her skirt so that it reached a more decorous mid-thigh and deciding which of three muscle-bound leers she was going to allow to buy her a drink. ... that girl over there? I want to have sex with her. I don't want a conversation, or a relationship or to know what books she's read. I want to go to bed with her. But guys like me don't get to sleep with girls like her — girls like her go for blokes

like those three over there. But I reckon there must be something I can say which'll convince her that once the lights are out I've got everything they've got. All we've got to do is work out what it is."

I wasn't sure where the "we" had suddenly come from or even why I was still listening to a man who believed that if he searched hard enough he would be able to find the verbal cash which would let him drag any woman he fancied back to his cave by her blonde hair extensions.

"Well, I don't know," I said, "but there was a line that once worked for me. Of course it was 20-odd years ago, and things have changed..."

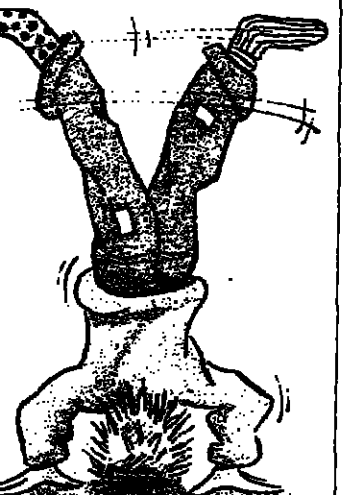
"What was it? Please! Tell me what it was!"

So I told him about Waterloo station. And he tried it. And stap me if it didn't work. The blonde stood up, pulled her skirt down again, thanked the three men for their kind offer, and walked out of the bar with the fey cheesecloth wearer.

Which proves that when it comes to sexual relationships there is no such thing as an eternal verity.

Either that or the fact that there are no lengths to which some people will not go to put together a wind-up.

Einstein could solve this puzzle standing on his head. Can you?



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HOW TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE

The different symbols have different values. Added together they give the totals shown. Work out the missing total for the left hand column. If you can solve this puzzle you could be eligible to join Mensa. The High IQ Society.

Send coupon for further details and a copy of the self-administered test To: Mensa, FREEPOST, Wolverhampton WV2 1RR (No stamp required)

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Mensa

Taking a trip around an author's head

CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Geoff Brown reviews *Naked Lunch*, *Until The End Of The World*, *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*, *Rebecca's Daughters*, *Broadway Bound* and *Ricochet*

Knocking on an apartment door, Peter Weller announces flatly, "Ex-terminator!" *Naked Lunch* (18, MGM Shafesbury Avenue) has just begun. How is David Cronenberg going to wrest a manageable film from William Burroughs's frenzied nightmare of a novel, which 30 years ago made censors seethe and the Establishment blanch? Forget the words that need asterisks in family newspapers; consider phrases such as "a languid grey area of hiatus miasmic with yawns and gaping goof holes". How can images cope?

Cronenberg, the Canadian-born master of biological horror, is better placed than most for the challenge. Like Burroughs he is fascinated by disease, mutation and the irrational. When Burroughs writes about the Mugwump, a reptilian creature six-foot tall, Cronenberg's special effects crew are happy to oblige. They also invent creatures: a type-writer-cum-insect with a talking anus, and a slithering torso, known to the production crew as a "sex blob", jostle the cast — Weller, Judy Davis, Ian Holm and Julian Sands. *Naked Lunch* treads where no film has ventured before.

Cronenberg's best and boldest stroke was to blend the novel with details from Burroughs's own life. The film becomes an imaginative account of Burroughs in 1953, inhabiting a drug-induced Tangle of the mind called Interzone, struggling to write *Naked Lunch*.

Weller gives a mesmerising, buttoned-down performance as the Burroughs surrogate, all at sea in a heady world of sex, duplicity and a fiendish drug

extracted from a "giant aquatic Brazilian centipede". Tangle was simulated in a Toronto warehouse. The film's artificial look, far from being a drawback, only increases the sense of hallucination.

Even those sympathetic may feel the insect-tyewriter, sex blob and friends eventually get out of hand. But a *Naked Lunch* adaptation that did not disturb would be a travesty. So, welcome to Interzone. Meet the Mugwump: see the unfilmable filmed with insight, courage and terrific flair.

'Cronenberg's best and boldest stroke was to blend the novel with details from Burroughs's own life'

The discipline of working with others' material has obviously kept Cronenberg fighting-fit. Not so Wim Wenders in *Until The End Of The World* (15, Lumière), a project nursed since 1977, the director's artistic personality seems in danger of going to seed.

Wenders first planned this exasperating odyssey, set in 1993, as a wide-screen epic for shooting in 17 countries. Budget restrictions curtailed his globe-trotting and shrank the film stock. Commercial considerations then shrank

the running time to two-and-a-half hours, though Wenders has a five-hour version.

In the present print, you certainly feel the scissors. Wenders's cast of mysterious strangers, detectives, bounty-hunters and ex-lovers chase each other in abrupt snatches that leave no time to savour either characters or locations. From Wenders, who has made his mark catching life on the wing, this is a sad deficiency.

Around the half-way point, a bewildered William Hurt and Wenders's current muse Solveig Dommartin reach Australia, and this hurtling film grinds into bottom gear. In a cave laboratory, Hurt's father (Max von Sydow) is experimenting with transmitting pictures to his blind wife (Jeanne Moreau). Hurt, it appears, has been travelling the globe gathering images with a special camera.

None of the actors mesh; while the transmitted pictures, conveyed through the High Definition video technology that gave *Prospero's Books* its fabulous texture, seem left over from a Sixties acid trip. For a film that struggles to say something meaningful about the nourishment of family and art in a world spinning out of control, the art on display is not strong enough for the job.

The Hand That Rocks The Cradle (15, Odeon West End) prompts more exasperation. Seventy-five minutes into this tale of a psychotic nanny, a light finally shines in the deluded mother's brain. "So many things have gone wrong since she's been here!" she bleats. We are ahead of her.

Amanda Silver's script might almost have been copied from a beginner's manual.



Judy Davis and Peter Weller, for once not jostled by the creatures infesting their world in David Cronenberg's film of *Naked Lunch*

No quirks or humour disturb the formula of the two-faced intruder (Rebecca De Mornay) craftily sabotaging a squeaky-clean family.

Strong acting makes the time pass. De Mornay, experienced at playing smiling mice, enjoys the chance to show her fangs; while Annabella Sciorra, as the victim mother, never goes out of her way to grab sympathy. Director Curtis Hanson never cheapens the material, though he never transforms it, either.

On to the historical romp

Rebecca's Daughters (12, Odeon Haymarket), where Peter O'Toole opens proceedings, nicely stewed, with a judge's wig, a cat curled round his neck and a wineglass lurching in his hand. Towards the end, he dresses up as Good Queen Bess in a ginger wig, hoop skirt and gilded costume.

For this bouquet of madness, we must blame Dylan Thomas, who penned the script for Gainsborough Pictures in 1948. Period tosh was Gainsborough's forte; this tale of a 19th-century soldier join-

ing forces with Welsh peasants to counteract the genry's greed is lost in time.

Paul Rhys and Joely Richardson put in good work; Peter O'Toole remains, of course, *sui generis*. Welsh director Karl Francis struggles hard. Yet no amount of misplaced energy can make this strange venture come to heel.

For curio lovers. *Onstage, Broadway Bound* (PG, Screen on the Hill) earned Neil Simon more critical respect than either of his autobiographical predeces-

sors, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Biloxi Blues*. Yet Paul Bogart's film version was only a television movie. Its British big-screen exposure seems unwarranted: we never advance visually beyond faces in rooms, delivering Simon's patented medicine of laughter and tears. The old-timers — Anne Bancroft, Hume Cronyn — have the best of things as the mother and grandfather.

Finally, *Ricochet* (18, MGM Haymarket): the kind of movie that leaves a hole in your head where your brain

cells used to be. Denzel Washington flashes his teeth as an upwardly thrusting assistant D.A., derailed by the schemes of a crazed escaped prisoner (John Lithgow, cast against type) whom he got jailed.

The plot has done yeoman service, but this new edition fritters away any potential through absurd excess, unnecessary cruelty and a fatal lack of momentum. Joel Silver, of the *Die Hard* maestro, co-produced; Russell Mulcahy, specialist in films that make no sense, directed.

I taut I taw an anniversary

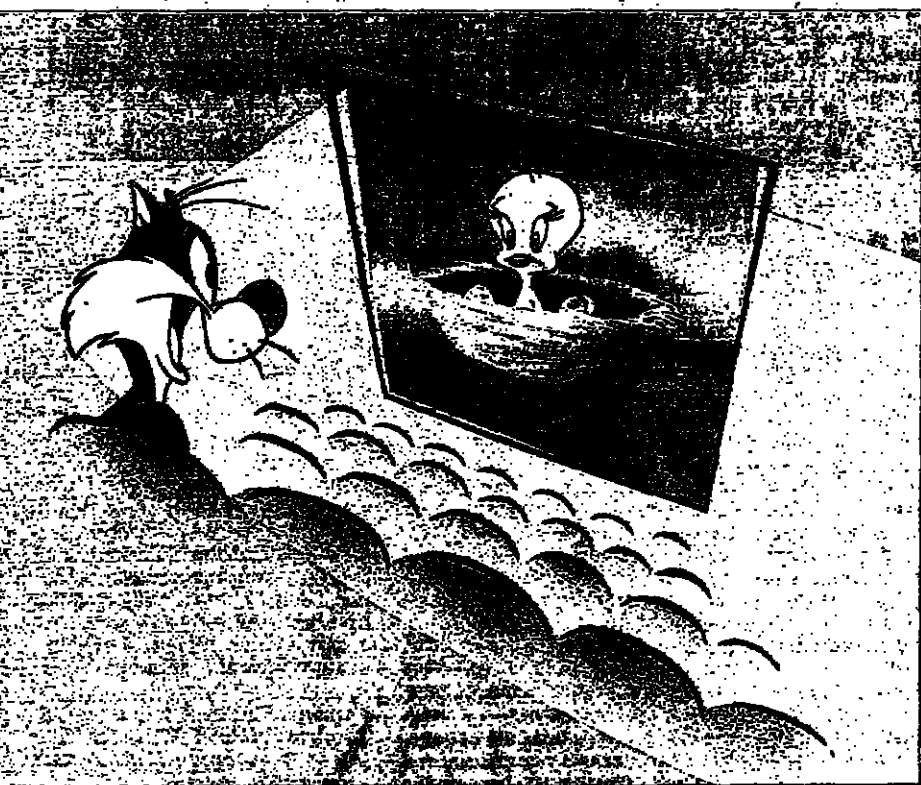
The cartoon canary
Tweety Pie is 50
years old. David
Robinson traces the
story of the little
bird and his always
frustrated co-star,
Sylvester the cat

Film industry pundits spent all last year trying to figure out how *Home Alone* — a modestly-budgeted film with no stars and an infant protagonist — soared to become the fourth-biggest earning film in history.

The answer came in a flash of revelation while watching old Warner Looney Tunes cartoons — an occasional intellectual therapy that cannot be too highly recommended. *Home Alone*, I realised, is an unacknowledged, uncredited reworking of one of the universal David-and-Goliath myths of the 20th century, the warring of Tweety (sometimes spelt Tweetie) Pie and Sylvester.

Home Alone is the story of a small boy, alone in the house and menaced by a ramshackle pair of burglars. Tweety, it will be recalled, is an innocent baby canary, alone and apparently defenceless in his cage, who lispes out "I taut I taw a puddy tat" on sighting the prowling Sylvester.

Sylvester is a conniving alley-cat, whose schemes to get Tweety always go awry, as the little bird ingeniously lands him in booby traps that leave him crushed, concussed, stretched or flattened in prop-



Puddy-tat on watch: Sylvester and Tweety Pie were featured in more than 40 films

er cartoon style. Tweety regards the wrecked Sylvester with wide blue eyes and a sympathetic cry of "Dat pore puddy tat".

In *Home Alone*, little Kevin (Macaulay Culkin) coulted with a triumphant "Ye-e-e-e!" at the awful catastrophes he wrought upon his would-be persecutors. Reviewers all pointed out the cartoon nature of the comic violence.

This year is Tweety's golden jubilee. His first appearance was in 1942, in *A Tale of Two Kitties*. In this first outing, the likeness to *Home Alone* is even

more striking, since, like Kevin, Tweety is menaced by not one but a pair of marauders. As further curious illustrations of the artistic continuities of the movies, these bad cats were based on the comedy team of Abbott and Costello and called Babbitt and Castello.

Tweety was the invention of a genius of the Looney Tunes team, Bob Clampett (1913-1984). The character was based on Clampett's observations of baby birds in the nest and on a nude baby picture of himself which he particularly detested.

On his first appearance, Tweety, though his eyes were already their definitive baby blue, was flesh pink. The censors objected to his apparent nakedness; however, in Tweety's third film, *A Crue Some Twoome*, Clampett — resisting the suggestion of putting the bird in short pants — dressed him in yellow feathers.

Sylvester, created by Friz Freleng, first appeared in 1945, though he did not acquire a name until 1948. "Sylvester" seemed particularly appropriate to an animal with such splashy sibilants.

Tweety and Sylvester were finally teamed in 1947, when their first picture together, *Tweetie Pie*, won Warner's first "Oscar" for an animated cartoon. The team became a popular cult, and their song "I Taut I Taw a Puddy-Tat" earned a platinum disc in 1950. The voices were provided by Mel Blanc.

Tweety and Sylvester ac-

quired a supporting cast, including a beaming old Granny who could wield a mean broom if Sylvester got out of hand, and Spike the bulldog, Sylvester's hane.

Together they made more than 40 pictures, in which Sylvester suffered endless torture. The titles generally invoked puns and plays on the titles of current films. They include *All A-Bird-r-r-d*, *Home Tweet Home*, *Ain't She Tweet*, *Canary Row*, *Room and Bird*, *Sandy Claws*, *Tweet and Sour*, *Bird in a Guilty Cage*, *A Streetcat named Sylvester*, *Muzzle Tough*, *Trick or Tweet* and *Rebel Without Claws*.

Sylvester frequently co-starred in films with other cartoon characters such as Road Runner and Speedy Gonzales; but Tweety never appeared without his partner. Clampett himself pointed out that he was essentially a verbal character: his embryonic wing-arms were so short that he could not even put on a hat.

In 1957 the couple won their second Oscar with *Birds Anonymous*, in which Sylvester vainly tries to kick the bird-ceding addiction. At the end of the film Tweety sorrowfully concludes, "Once a bad of puddy tat, always a bad of puddy tat."

Their last appearance together was in *Hawaiian Eye* in 1964; but 28 years later, their pictures go on delighting successive generations on Saturday morning television and Bugs Bunny specials. Tweety and Sylvester remain best-sellers in the new chain of Warner merchandising stores. And of course their spirit lives on in *Home Alone*.

David Robinson

TELEVISION REVIEW

Meet a singularly artificial sleuth

The soliloquy has an uncertain place in television drama. When a soliloquy is delivered to camera, it is only with rare skill that the actor can avoid sounding artificial. Paul Hines's adaptation of Bernard Ruben's macabre piece of whimsy, *Mr Wakefield's Crusade* (BBC2, last night), leans heavily on the soliloquy. The producer, Ruth Caleb, and the director, Angela Pope, deserve credit for taking risks with this device, but this series is highly mannered: perhaps too much so for three 50-minute episodes.

Peter Capaldi as Luke Wakefield speaks his improbably theatrical lines with aplomb, and conveys the character's manic zaniness. The nearest thing Luke has to a friend is an enemy: the nosy porter of his smart service flat in Kensington, whom he ineffectually insults every time he takes the lift. Richard Griffiths is perfect for this mock-sinister part.

Luke has just become very rich, but he feels himself a failure because his wife has left him for an Australian lesbian. She rings up to invite him to be a godfather, she having been artificially inseminated. Luke has no known occupation except visiting the post-

office, where the man ahead of him in the queue drops dead. Having robbed the corpse of a letter, Luke is drawn into a homicidal obsession.

On the face of it, the correspondence (more of which Luke filches from the dead man's house) suggests that the stiff's wife, Marian Firbank, has been murdered by him and buried on Wimbledon Common. In response to Luke's advertisement, a woman calling herself Marian Firbank turns up at Luke's flat and leaves a baffling video message for him, demanding her legacy. When a body answering to the missing woman's description turns up

on the Common, a possible motive emerges: she was a prostitute.

The plot is as singular as the dialogue: hardly realistic yet not quite magic either, grotesque yet not absurd, belonging neither to the crime nor the fantasy genre. Luke's visit to Merthyr Tydfil is an excuse for a sequence of acute embarrassments. Nobody wants to know this importunate stranger with glittering eye, so he invents identities for himself and confides in the anonymous audience.

The new television murder mysteries fall into two main categories: the designer detective drama is so ingenious and

contrived that the point often gets lost in the detail. The murder morality play rams its point home with a truncheon.

Mr Wakefield's Crusade is closest to the first type. It is original and clever. But its intense introspection slows down the action too much. Long before the first episode was over, one began to wish for a contrast to Peter Capaldi's shock of hair and his brilliant imitation of a man doing an imitation of a man with a great deal to do. There is something to be said for the old-fashioned, self-effacing sleuths.

DANIEL JOHNSON

ARTS BRIEF

Tom as choirboy

A LOUD but sweet sound will boom out over Wales when 10,000 male singers, from more than 150 choirs world-wide, assemble in Cardiff Arms Park on May 23 for "Choir of the World". Conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes, they will be accompanied by four military bands from the Household Division and soloists including the soprano Dame Gwyneth Jones, the tenor Dennis O'Neill and the pop singer Tom Jones. The programme ends with the "1812" overture and a fireworks display.

Last chance... RODNEY ACKLAND was never the "English Chelkhor", as some claimed when his *Dark River* hit London 50 years ago. But there is sensitivity and feeling in his portrait of people self-indulgently immersing themselves in the past as the war against Hitler inexorably approaches. Sam Walters's finely acted revival gets its final performance at the Orange Tree, Richmond (081-940 3633) on Saturday.

WILLIAM HURT SOLVEIG DOMMARTIN



A FILM BY WIM WENDERS UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD

SAM NEILL MAX VON SYDOW AND JEANNE MOREAU

JOHANNES TAPLIN AND ANATOLIE BARANOV PRESENT
A FILM BY WIM WENDERS UNTIL THE END OF THE WORLD
WILLIAM HURT, SOLVEIG DOMMARTIN, SAM NEILL, MAX VON SYDOW, JEANNE MOREAU, JONATHAN TAPLIN, AND ANATOLIE BARANOV
ORIGINAL SCORE BY GRACIE REVELL. EDITED BY PETER PROFFERMAN. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD HILLER
SCREENPLAY BY PETER CARMY AND WIM WENDERS. BASED ON AN ORIGINAL IDEA BY WIM WENDERS AND SOLVEIG DOMMARTIN
PRODUCED BY JOHANNES TAPLIN AND ANATOLIE BARANOV. DIRECTED BY WIM WENDERS

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Brasshats and frocks fight it out

Tom Pocock praises a new history of the Chiefs of the Defence Staff written by two eminent generals, one of them a former member of this exclusive military club

The Staff College at Camberley can be satisfied with its former students' ability to express themselves in writing. Given as their demanding subject the history of the Chiefs of Staff, Bill Jackson and Dwin Bramall are clear, comprehensive and readable.

Bill and Dwin show, by signing themselves thus on the jacket of their book, that they have also been influenced by the matey style of the Directorate of Public Relations at the Ministry of Defence. Turn to the title page and they can be seen to be General Sir William Jackson and Field Marshall Lord Bramall, a former Chief of the Defence Staff. They have written an enthralling book, which will not only appeal to the student of politics and war.

The evolution of the Chiefs of Staff over the past century, as they became increasingly enmeshed with the decision-takers in the Cabinet, has been complex. Although directly involving only a small group of people at any one time, they moulded the history of their country. While the narrative is sometimes necessarily dry, much of it becomes as compelling as an elaborate board game.

While preparing to fight foreign enemies, the Chiefs of Staff, the professional heads of the armed forces, also battled with their political masters and each other. In the First World War, it was the frock-coated politicians — the "Frocks", or "Easterners" — who hoped to avoid heavy losses by attacking Germany from the East, arguing with the "Brass Hat" generals, or "Westerners", who saw a war of attrition on the Western Front as inevitable.

This debate changed to that over whether Britain should exercise her traditional maritime strategy around the world, or become a land and air power committed to Europe. From this emerged the long struggle for primacy between the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

Soon after the RAF was founded as an independent strategic arm in 1918, it was fighting for its life. The airman and the sailor, Trenchard and Beatty, fought over the control of air power. Then the battle between the bomber and the battle ship began: first the latter was winning, then the former. More

recently, the strategic bomber ousted the big aircraft carrier just before a First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Carrington, turned the tables on the airman by persuading the Government to transfer the nuclear deterrent to the Royal Navy's Polaris submarines.

The authors cast sharp eyes at the military and political titans of the past, becoming less as stringent as they reach their own times. It was surely Bill who wrote that the Government had "the good sense" to choose Dwin as Chief of the General Staff. And surely it was the latter who prompted the graceful compliment to the much-abused Sir John Nott for the part he played in the prosecution of the Falklands war once it had started.

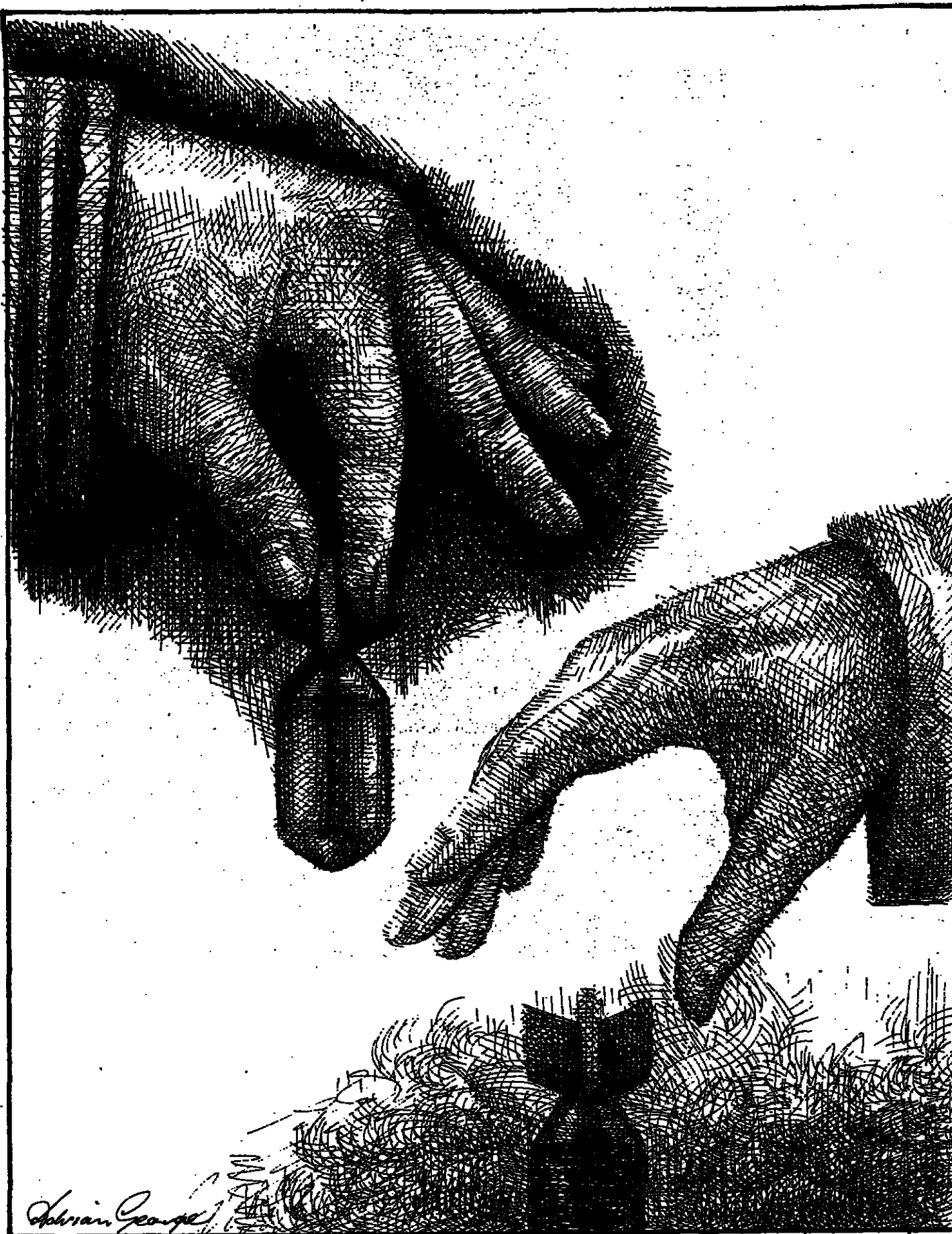
The giant shadow cast across the century is that of Churchill. As a "Frock", he proposes (disastrously) the forcing of the Dardanelles; he is in the middle of the bomber versus battleship rows, taking one side, then the other. As Prime Minister, in 1940, he appoints himself Defence Minister as well.

What Admiral "Jackie" Fisher described as his "pictorial mind, brimming with ideas" required a tough editor. At the beginning of the first world war, when Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty, the First Sea Lord, Prince Louis of Battenberg, had been unable to stand up to him and it was this, and not his German name that prompted his resignation (a claim by the authors with which other historians will disagree). In the second world war, a suitably strong counterbalance was finally found in a Chief of the Imperial General Staff, the future Lord Alanbrooke.

The need for a strong link between the nation's brain and its right arm led to the appointment of a Chief of the Defence Staff, a powerful figure above inter-service rivalries, as exemplified by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin during the Falklands War.

The authors admit that while "the Chiefs" have had to interpret and apply the ideas of the politicians, they themselves have never been particularly innovative. They quote Churchill as saying "you may take the most gallant soldier, the most intrepid airman and the most audacious sailor, put them at a table together — and what do you get? The sum of their fears!"

THE CHIEFS
The Story of the United Kingdom Chiefs of Staff
By Bill Jackson and Dwin Bramall
Brasshats, £30



Shaw: one of the last pictures

Dieting after a surfeit of empire

Anthony Hartley

TIGHTROPE WALKING
British Defence Policy Since 1945
By Michael Carver
Hutchinson, £13.99

policy and the hangover from imperial responsibilities, whose true worth in terms of power was never properly analysed. Improvisation was inevitable, and matters were made worse by technological change which meant that a new weapon was no sooner in production than it was out of date. Shifting policies, shifting resources, shifting alternatives for new weaponry, in these circumstances it is a marvel that any effective fighting forces were developed at all.

Two permanent features can be discerned in what was otherwise a chaos of commitments. Britain's assignment of forces to Nato was never questioned. The same cannot be said of Britain's nuclear deter-

rent. Indeed, Carver himself is none too keen on this second element of continuity in British defence policy. In the light of subsequent events, the purchase of Polaris and Trident seems an expensive way of protecting Britain against a future in which Third World despots seek to possess their own nuclear weapons, and the former Soviet Army's ballistic missiles give a new meaning to the phrase "loose cannon".

The confusion that emerges from Carver's account of events was

inherent in Britain's post-war situation. It was hardly the fault even of the politicians, unless we expect from them brains whirling like computers in an effort to adapt to historical change. None the less, it cannot be said that those responsible for administering Britain's armed services made a good job of it up to the mid-1960s.

When Denis Healey became defence secretary in 1964, he found that over the previous 13 years, 26 major aircraft projects costing £300 million had been cancelled. It

should have been possible to improve this dismal record of defence procurement, had a competent minister given his attention to it or had the warring admirals, generals and air marshals been prepared to take a more realistic view of their requirements. Interventions from the back benches by ex-officer MPs, whose enthusiasm was not matched by their knowledge of foreign countries or of modern warfare, were also unhelpful.

Carver does not say so directly, but it is clear that he considers Healey the most effective of post-war defence secretaries — a judgment that seems accurate enough. Yet even Healey's reforms did not produce a permanent check on the

surging costs of defence. None the less, the efficiency of the MoD during the Falklands operation and the Gulf war astonished observers. Success owed much to Healey's emphasis on cost effectiveness and inter-service cooperation. It all worked well on the day.

Indeed, the reader can only wonder that, out of a policy which never rested on a settled allocation of resources or definite commitments, should spring armed forces able to undertake at short notice campaigns of great difficulty in the Falklands and the Gulf, fought at the end of long lines of communications. Some of those millions must have been well spent. Carver makes a case for his subject, if not for modern ways of government.

Anthony Hartley is the author of *The Irrelevance of Maastricht* (Institute of European Defence and Strategic Studies, £5).

Where there's a will

Simon Tait

BERNARD SHAW
Volume IV 1950-1991
The Last Laugh
By Michael Holroyd
Chatto & Windus, £10.99

John Mortimer, of whose socialist credentials Shaw would have approved, might have let Rumpole loose on the case. A. P. Herbert, the comic master of the legal excursion, could have used it for his *Misleading Cases*, though the invention of such bizarre developments from such a well-meaning series of legacies would have been beyond him. Even Shaw himself could hardly have imagined the debacle caused by his last will and testament.

Shaw left an estate worth more than £5 million today: more than his rivals Hardy, Chesterton, Wells and Barrie put together. The future copyright value was and is incalculable. Shaw wanted some of this wealth used to perpetuate his dream of alphabet reform.

He invented a new "alfabet" and made provision for the setting up of one trust for research into its implementation and another for the translation of his *Androcles and the Lion* as an example. He prudently put a time limit on the trusts of 21 years after his death.

When these steps had been achieved, said the will, there should be residuary trust funds to benefit the British Museum "in acknowledgement of the incalculable value to me of my daily resort to the Reading Room", the National Gallery of Ireland and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

When the will was published in 1951, Lady Astor, a trustee of the abortive Shaw memorial appeal, called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to "break that ridiculous will". The residuary legatees challenged the albatross trusts in the High Court. Sir Charles Russell, on behalf of the British Museum and RADA, ended the hearing with a line from *Androcles* — "Did you get an awful thorn in to um's tootum wootum?" — querying whether, in Holroyd's words, "a phonetic translation of this speech would really be charitable".

The judge found for the residuary legatees who came into their inheritance straight away and have been squabbling over it ever since. This book is likely to ensure that the squabbling continues until at least 2000 when Shaw's copyright runs out.

I doubt that, at 89 pages of bulked-out copy, the Shaw will was worth tacking onto the end of what we thought was a complete and masterly three-volume accounting of the life and work of GBS. Fascinating and farcical as it is, the will is still at best an appendix of a great literary and public life.



Shaw: one of the last pictures

Middle-class blues in Camden

Rebecca Fraser

PILARS OF GOLD
By Alice Thomas Ellis
Viking, £14.99

Alice Thomas Ellis's wild *cri de coeur* at the unwholesomeness of 1990s Britain must send up an echo in every sensitive breast: "The food's all poisoned, and the newspapers are poisoned, and the television's poisoned, and Brian makes money telling people everything isn't poisoned".

Scarlet is at the mercy of every new danger, real and imagined, that dogs the routine of the impatient city dweller. Now that even potatoes have been discovered to be carcinogenic, Scarlet's conviction that she inhabits a blighted universe, with a crooked justice system, non-existent social services and bankrupt schools, is immovable. When her American neighbour goes missing, it seems that the swirling anarchy of the streets — recorded by the local paper where they had once only described weddings and flower shows — has taken over her life.

In the face of this landscape of urban anonymity Scarlet becomes obsessed with the virtues of an old-fashioned community which her middle-class friends have abandoned. They only seem to flourish in the boisterous close family of her neighbour Constance, daughter and sister of East End villains.

In Constance, a lovable (if you like that sort of thing) female Alf Garnett, Scarlet finds all the



Alice Thomas Ellis, Colin Haycraft and family in 1987

warmth and reassurance she hungers for. It is certainly not obtainable at home, historically a cheerful concept but in her case a permanent battleground for her second husband Brian, an advertising man, and her adolescent daughter Camille. Both of them are at pains to display the very worst characteristics of their species, making Scarlet feel more ground down than ever.

As usual Alice Thomas Ellis is prodigal with her wit, of which there are so many felicitous that one longs to quote them all. Perhaps her most brilliant moment is Brian's peroration on the moral purposes of advertising, which provides an ironical climax to Scarlet's search for lost values: "For the vast majority of people... the images and logos of advertising are

all they'll ever know of art. You could say, all they'll ever know of beauty. The familiar brand names with their images have taken the place of — statues and icons and the things people used to look at. Corporate design and familiarity are having an unprecedented, cohesive effect on society as well as bringing prosperity to the community."

With notions like these darkening an already dire world picture, it is unsurprising that Scarlet has taken to visiting a therapist in order to cure herself of holding reality at arm's length. But not only can she anticipate her therapist's reactions, it further adds to her depression that she must go to one at all. It only confirms her view of the isolation of modern life when advice and support are not the prerogative of

friendship, but were "commodities for which you paid professionals, rather as you paid prostitutes for love and bought your vegetables instead of growing them yourself".

However, as the reference to vegetables betrays, and shrewd Constance points out, Scarlet is a deluded romantic, convinced that life was less brutal and frightening in the unspecified past, a Jerusalem which never in fact existed. It is Constance — pessimistic and paranoid, but clear-sighted — who shows Scarlet how to be less easily bruised by the 20th century.

Those seeking a carefully worked out plot or memorable resolutions will not find them here. On the other hand, the novel is a joy to read, each page sparkling with droll and profound *apocryphs*. Scarlet herself is a sympathetic creation, with her constant fears that Camille is dead, and her collection of sentimental objects which "had lost significance for her yet still had the power to bring her to the verge of tears, reminding her of what they had once meant". She frequently wishes a burglar would remove them.

There is rather too much of Constance in the book: her epatant views lose their charm after two or three bouts, but they are hard to avoid, since much of the novel consists of the two friends comparing their versions of the meaning of life. Nevertheless, the cast of characters — ghastly adolescents, upper middle-class Camden Town dwellers and a Thatcherite Turkish restaurant owner — are all enjoyably recognisable types rounded out with memorable acuteness.

These books are so different in subject, size and style that to read them one after the other is like turning from an over-rich banquet with full-bodied wines to a tin of bully beef and Nani tea. They share, however, a backdrop of love and war, overshadowing the lives of their main players.

Mark Helprin's novel opens in Rome, 1964. Alessandro Giuliani, a retired professor in his mid-70s, leaves home for a holiday at his granddaughter's, only to start an altercation with the bus driver. The latter refuses to brake for a young man who, having just missed the bus at the last stop, is desperately sprinting behind it to catch up. All right, says the frail old man, if the teenager cannot get on, then he, Alessandro Giuliani, will get off.

He thus finds himself dumped on the roadside, with 44 miles still to go and the uneducated young factory hand for a companion. As they walk beneath the August sun and glittering stars, Giuliani begins to relate his long life story, concentrating on his years in the Great War.

He slew his first Austrian enemy in a silt trench, deserted and narrowly missed being shot at dawn, did hard labour quarrying marble for friends' graves, was nearly killed with a unit in the Alps. And yet he survived the brutalities, the betrayals, his sense of human values still intact. Now a solitary old man, he faces death as one might a gate which separates him from his loved ones — his wife, their only son, his parents and dead comrades in the war.

Warriors tried to the limit

Henry Stanhope

A SOLDIER OF THE GREAT WAR
By Mark Helprin
Hutchinson, £15.99
AN HONOURABLE DEATH
By Iain Crichton Smith
Macmillan, £13.99

life and death over his fellows, or the pitifully ugly Austrian girl Lorna, who weighs a literally staggering 560 kilos and whose jaw resembles "a balcony at the opera" — yet is full of love and yearns for her own child.

It has its weaknesses, the chief one being its length — almost 800 pages. Helprin needs a hard-headed sub-editor who would cut through the meandering dialogue and literary oil-de-sacs.

None the less, both the effort and achievement are impressive. At the level of an action tale alone, the graphic, well-observed detail makes for a compelling sequence of adventures. Helprin also brilliantly conveys the feel of Italy, its warmth, light, broad, horizons, and indulgence.

Iain Crichton Smith's short novel is based on the true life of Sir Hector Macdonald who, the son of a poor Scottish crofter in the last century, ran away from his shop

assistant's job in Inverness to join the Gordon Highlanders in Aberdeen. His dreams of military glory were soon fulfilled. As a sergeant in Afghanistan, he took part in the Kandahar march and was recommended by Lord Roberts for a commission. In the Sudan he trained and commanded native troops whose rearguard action at Omdurman saved Kitchener's army and he returned to Britain, a hero of his time. "Fighting Mac" later fought in the Boer War and was knighted.

But that was the apogee of his career. Drafted to the Indian subcontinent as a major-general, his familiarity with Eurasian schoolboys led to a charge of homosexuality. Rather than face a court martial and disgrace, Macdonald booked into a Paris hotel and shot himself. Although the accusations were never proved, the assumption is that he was pretty guilty. Not only was he reluctant to deny them, but he had already started an affair with a schoolboy he had met on leave in Scotland.

It is hard to feel much sympathy with a pedagogue, but the author's account of Macdonald's fall wrings some out of us. Despite his public acclaim, Macdonald in private was a lonely man, surrounded by an officer class to which he never quite belonged. This had already trapped him into a loveless marriage. A similar unease among the tea planters of Ceylon would seem to have tempted him to seek solace of a kind among others who felt socially excluded.

Although in the final pages Crichton Smith successfully captures Macdonald's desolation, the book remains something of a disappointment. One cannot help feeling that he has missed an opportunity to do more.

Reb

Antonia Fraser's of English history of essays sparkles

When the study of history is concerned, even the most trivial of details can be of great importance. It is the study of the past that has made the state of service. Take the case of the state of service. It is the study of the past that has made the state of service.

From *Counter-Reformation* to *Glenn Feldman*, the volume of his essays to apply to a number of years of variety of occasions, they are difficult to find, and have brought together for the convenience of today's readers, including the reader with a specialist interest. As a volume, it displays enough of these qualities which have delighted his admirers, to make it an excellent introduction to his work for the general reader. Mrs. Fraser has never heard of Huch (Trevor-Roper) and his possible that Marston will to him as Lord Dacre of Glouchester.

Above all, *Counter-Reformation* is a wonderful read. The published quote in their blurb a judgement made in Noel Annan on 14 Trevor-Roper in his autobiography: "He is the most sophisticated and assured historian of our age, and has never written an incoherent sentence or produced an incoherent argument."

While not necessarily disagreeing with this pronouncement, I find his Olympic tone fails to do justice to the sheer vitality of Trevor-Roper's writing. He has the ability to evoke a character of vigour and economy, he also manages to use the occasional contemporary phrase so that it gives colour to the text but does not grate upon the ear. This is an enviable many another place, probably because the desire to write this along with a similar tone, his result is generally an awkward juxtaposition of ideas (and slang can go on for a date before book is printed).

Here is Queen Christina Sweden, one of the predestined figures who feature in the *Plumage of Arts* in Seventeenth Century. She is introduced to us as "the greatest of culture-vultures" — a description which is both accurate and amusing.

Meanwhile, if they were to rule even the little they had, its rulers had to avoid offending or provoking the Turks. Constantine's elder brother, the Emperor John VIII, succeeded in not angering the Turks, but his attempts to win aid from the western Christians gained him little, although he went so far as to promote a union of the Orthodox with the Roman Church on the Pope's terms. The Pope did, indeed, launch a crusade from Hungary, but the Christian army reached no further than the coast of the Black Sea before it was destroyed by the sultan's troops.

Constantine was vigorous and courageous, but he had remarkably bad judgement. As ruler, under the Emperor John, part of the *Morrea* (Peloponnese), he engaged in military adventures which might almost have been calculated to frustrate the two main aims of Byzantine diplomacy, by both alienating the Christians of the West and angering the Turks.

The most serious of these was his invasion of the Duchy of Athens and Thebes, ruled by a Florentine family but under Turkish suzerainty. The sultan's reaction was swift, and Constantine not only lost his new conquests but was helpless to prevent the Turks from entering and devastating the Morea itself.

Constantine might have been expected to have learned his lesson and act in future with more circumspection. Far from it. In 1451, two years after he had succeeded his brother as emperor, he went out of his way to anger the new Turkish sultan, Mehmet, by making a veiled threat to set up a pretender to the sultan's throne. Shortly afterwards Mehmet began to make preparations for the siege of Constantinople.

It is hard to feel much sympathy with a pedagogue, but the author's account of Macdonald's fall wrings some out of us. Despite his public acclaim, Macdonald in private was a lonely man, surrounded by an officer class to which he never quite belonged. This had already trapped him into a loveless marriage. A similar unease among the tea planters of Ceylon would seem to have tempted him to seek solace of a kind among others who felt socially excluded.

Rebarbative, racy, risqué

Antonia Fraser salutes a great mandarin of English history, whose latest volume of essays sparkles with learned eloquence

Where the study of history is concerned, Hugh Trevor-Roper is entitled to say like Othello that he has "done the state some service". Like Othello, too, he has attracted jealousy, even if he has not been quite so unsuspecting of his Iago as the noble Moor of Venice.

From *Counter-Reformation to Glorious Revolution* is the third volume of his essays to appear: written over a number of years for a variety of occasions, they are now difficult to find, and have been brought together for the convenience of today's readers — including the reader with a taste of history who does not read specialist publications. As a volume, it displays enough of those qualities which have delighted his admirers to make it an excellent introduction to his work for the proverbial visitor from Mars who has never heard of Hugh Trevor-Roper (of course, it is possible that Martians will know him as Lord Dacre of Glaxton).

Above all, *From Counter-Reformation to Glorious Revolution* is a wonderful read. The publishers quote in their blurb a judgment made by Noel Arunan on Hugh Trevor-Roper in his autobiography: "He is the most eloquent, sophisticated and assured historian of Our Age, and has never written an inelegant sentence or produced an incoherent argument."

While not necessarily disagreeing with this pronouncement, I feel its Olympian tone fails to draw attention to the sheer vitality of Trevor-Roper's writing. He has the ability to evoke a character with vigour and economy; he also manages to use the occasional contemporary phrase so that it gives colour to the text, but does not grate upon the ear. This is an enviable gift many writers, chronicling another time, another place, probably experience the desire to jolly things along with a sudden foray into slang or something near it, but the result is generally an awkward juxtaposition of styles (and the slang can go out of date before the book is printed).

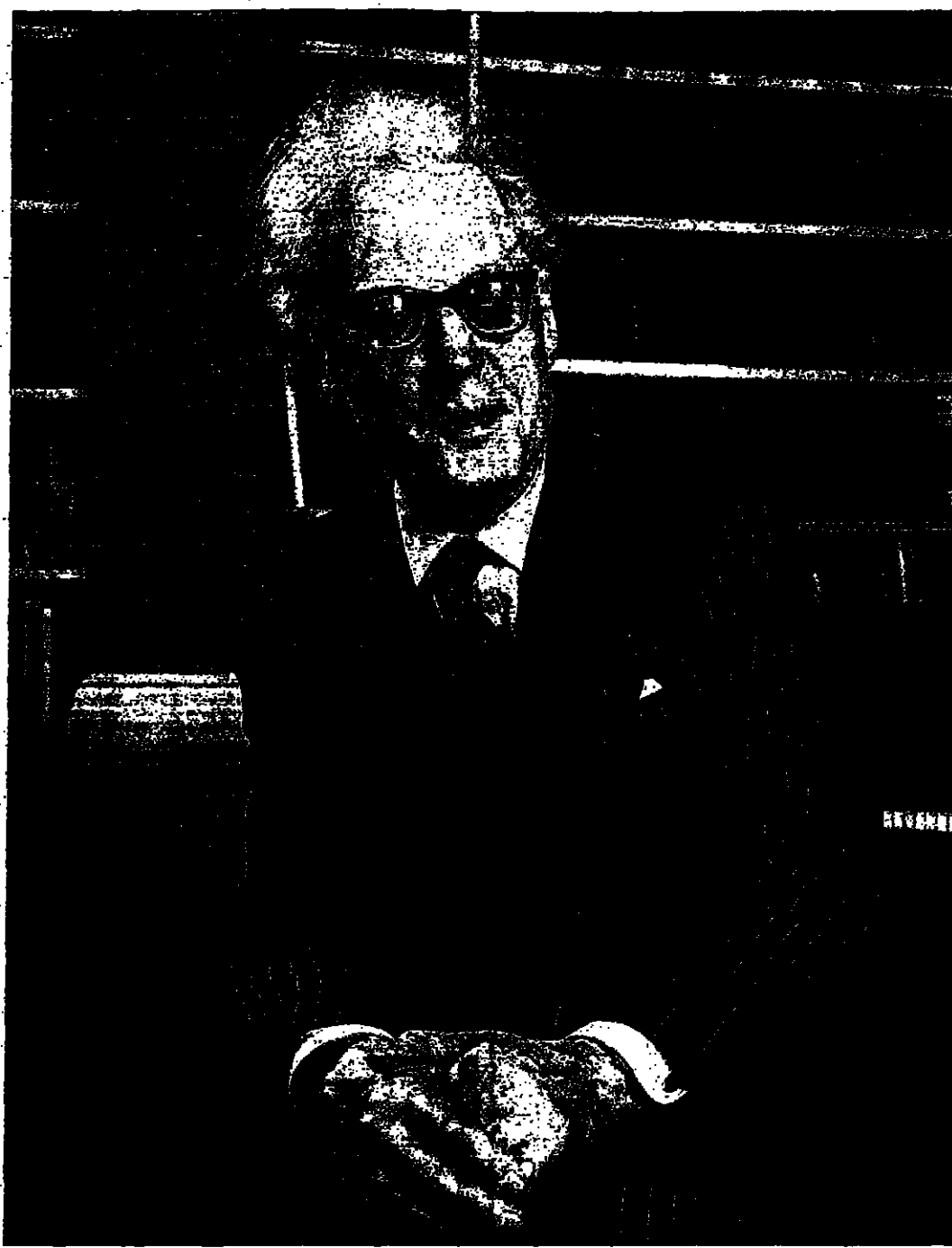
Here is Queen Christina of Sweden, one of the predatory royal figures who feature in the essay "The Plunder of Arts in the Seventeenth Century". She is introduced to us, as "the greatest of all culture-vultures", a description

which seems apt enough when one considers her habit of summoning poor Descartes to give her tutorials in philosophy at 5 am on Swedish mornings (the experience killed him). But what really turned Queen Christina on — my slang this time — was the thought of treasures which might be plundered. After the sack of Prague in 1648 by generals including her cousin, later Charles X, she sent a peremptory message: "Take good care to send me the library and the works of art that are there: for you know that they are the only things for which I care." So most of the Emperor Rudolf II's picture gallery, his books, his stables, and even a lion from his imperial menagerie, were loaded on to barges, to proceed slowly northwards. (One hopes that the lion fared better in Swedish climes than Descartes.)

At the age of 28, Queen Christina changed her mind, abdicated and fofooked dull, Lutheran Sweden for the more congenial Catholic Rome. "There, for the next thirty-five years," writes Trevor-Roper, "this tyrannical spinster would both eat her royal cake and have it, gossiping with worldly cardinals, enjoying royal precedence without any of the responsibilities of a crown." When she died in 1689, she left all her property to Cardinal Azzolino, whom she called "that divine man".

Such raciness of style, equalling Lytton Strachey, combined with what Trevor-Roper himself calls his own "rebarbative pedantry", makes one regret that he counts so few biographies among his works. His study of Archbishop Laud, published in 1940, and there is a further essay on the subject, "In Retrospect", in this collection. About 20 years ago, there were exciting rumours that he would produce a biography of Oliver Cromwell — regrettably, they proved to be false.

Inevitably, essays on similar subjects collected in volume form will lead to repetitions. The ecumenical movement inspired by Hugo Grotius, who wanted to create a new universal church on an Anglican base, forms the basis of "Grotius and England" (fiftieth anniversary edition), and then re-occurs in several other articles, with much the same information delivered in much the same way.



Trevor-Roper: formerly Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford and Master of Peterhouse

Trevor-Roper scorns the modern theory that the English Civil War was merely a series of "petulant outbursts": the phrase which he disdains is that of Jonathan Clark and he disdains it more than once. Nevertheless, this is a small price to pay — for the reader anyway — compared to the richness of portraiture he gives us. As Trevor-Roper writes in respect of two Imperial Spanish statesmen, the Duke of Alba and the Count-Duke of Olivares: "The failure of an empire at particular moments may be organically inevitable, but history

commonly assigns the responsibility to individuals."

The subject of one study is Matteo Ricci, the Italian-born Jesuit who arrived in China in 1583 and established a series of Jesuit houses there. Initially, Ricci, with his companion pioneer, Michele Ruggieri, made a terrible mistake: "They imitated the Buddhist monks, and went about on foot, clean-shaven with cropped hair. Rather belatedly, they discovered that Buddhist monks were considered very low-class." Confucianism was the philosophy of the court

— so they changed their style: they grew their beards and hair, wore high hats and long robes of purple silk, and were carried in sedan chairs on the shoulders of porters, with servants in attendance. "If these customs were neglected," Ricci explained, "one would not be known as learned: a terrible fate in a society ruled by scholars."

Cut down to size on the doorstep

Oliver Letwin

ELECTION RIDES
By Edward Pearce
Faber, £5.99

A very old lady, asked about her intentions to vote, replied, "Oh, I will one day."

"Can I count on your vote on April 9?" "No." "Are you Labour then?" "Now what was it last time, I'm not sure."

"Would you like to see me re-elected as your Member?" "Pardon." "Would you like to see me re-elected as your Member?" "Who?" "Would you like to see me re-elected as your Member?" "Yes, you look quite handsome."

Such are the authentic voices of an election campaign, and Edward Pearce has captured them in a book as good in its way as J. B. Priestley's *English Journey*.

Pearce's sympathies are clear. He likes the free spirit — Biffen, Badger, Bowis and Beaumont. Dark all receive his plaudits, as does Christopher Millar, the schoolboy representative of the Monster Raving Loony Party "who had devised a crisp manifesto: shoot teachers with water pistols, all holidays to begin at the end of holidays, and teachers to drive Skodas instead of Ladas". But he senses also the bitterness that often mars what should be the good humour of democracy: "I got viciously abused by a woman with a cigarette. She shouted in Scouse and waved her flag at me." "Good," says the candidate, "now you know what my life is like."

The first serious point to emerge is the relative ineffectiveness of local campaigning. The local Labour campaign in Darlington is, we find, high-tech. Canvassing returns are duly entered on the computer, and the wizard machine machines accordingly. But — alas — the canvassers are rather optimistic, and the computer produces a 38 percent majority in this marginal seat. Garbage in, garbage out, as the computer mogul says.

Pearce himself discovers the greatest truth of canvassing when he tries a spot of it in Finchley — "a long-morose pilgrimage from one end of an unresponsive street to the other". The fact is that they are out, or they will not answer, or when they do answer it is: "Please, another time, I have the dinner on."

We witness splendid speeches by several candidates — but all to audiences of the converted. Candour is no winner: the candidate in Bury South gets "10 out of 10 for honesty" when he admits to being against proportional representation, but he loses the enthusiasts' vote all the same. And even longevity is no guarantee of recognition: the response to Alan Beith, after years as a relatively active MP,

is: "Are you the Council man?"

No evidence here for the idea that candidates and their campaigns make more difference than the 500 or so votes which Pearce records as the official psephological view. But the second lesson to emerge is the apparently equally blithe indifference of most voters to the national campaigns.

Emergency meetings of Tories in London to rescue the campaign? "None of this seems real in Cardiff." The war of Jennifer's ear? "Health Row His Fever Pitch", says the *Guardian* — but Pearce records of his travels in Cheltenham, Kingswood and Marnmouth that "on the strength of this expedition among the electorate, fever is confined to Waldegrave, Patten, Kinnock and Cook in the company of a small assembly of journalists".

I am sure that Pearce is right — on both counts. In the course of two front-line election campaigns, I have never had the slightest evidence for supposing either that our own activities were making more than a few hundred votes' difference, or that the overwhelming majority of the electorate was more than dimly (and rather annoyedly) aware of the great national contest.

This raises the interesting question — which Pearce does not set out to answer, but which certainly needs answering: what does win (or lose) elections? At the risk of ridicule, I advance the proposition that if it is neither the local campaign nor the national campaign, then it must be the slowly crystallising sense of what the parties are actually about. More than 40 per cent of the British public must have decided, when they walked into their polling booths, that they preferred continuity of the Union to its gradual dissolution: continuity of a nation-state to its gradual absorption into a federal Europe; low taxation to high taxation, and so forth.

Underneath the fog of war which Pearce so eloquently describes, there must be — if there is any rational explanation for the result — an incoherent but profound perception of pairs of opposites on the part of millions of voters.

Oliver Letwin, the Conservative candidate for Hampstead and Highgate, was narrowly defeated by Glenda Jackson at the election.

Byzantium's gravedigger

John Marenbon

THE IMMORTAL EMPEROR
The Life and Legend of
Constantine
Palaiologos, Last Emperor of
the Romans
By Donald M. Nicol
Cambridge, £18.95

capture of Constantinople. Constantine begged in vain for substantial help from the Christians of the West. When, on 29 May, 1453, Mehmed launched his attack, the Chris-

tians soon lost the initiative. The Turks entered the city and Constantine died, fighting bravely, it seems, amid the confusion, bereft of his regalia and indistinguishable from a common soldier.

Donald Nicol's study of Constantine does not end with his death. One chapter presents the many different accounts of how he died and what happened to his corpse. Another examines the legends which grew up around him, and another the various claimants to the Byzantine throne, from Constantine's century to our own. These are the least satisfactory parts of the book:

accumulations of material with no obvious interest beyond the antiquarian.

By contrast, the account of Constantine's life is lucid and compelling. Professor Nicol shows admirable restraint in refusing either to speculate on Constantine's personality beyond the meagre indications the documents afford, or to pose the large — and perhaps unanswerable — questions which his story suggests.

Despite their power, the Turks had previously been willing to leave Constantinople under Christian rule. Was the city's fall, therefore, brought about mainly by the bad judgment of its last emperor? Or was the Union of the Roman and Orthodox Churches (like so many moves undertaken from political expediency) counter-productive, making Byzantium seem to the Turks a threat which they could no longer ignore?



Constantine XI Palaiologos in a French print of 1584, some 130 years after his death

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Beware of exaggerating at interviews, Hugh Thompson says — it could cost you the position

When gloss leads to job loss

A man was dismissed earlier this year from the prestigious job of £40,000-a-year marketing director for a large and important organisation. He was sacked because after three months in the job, his past experience had become so hard to believe that a more thorough examination was made of his curriculum vitae.

The search uncovered the fact that none of his academic or professional claims was honest. He had presented them in the belief that government agencies always check applicants' details by post, and had set up his own network of addresses to field enquiries.

But he is not alone in exaggerating his CV. Two years ago a survey by Robert Half, a firm of financial head-hunters, discovered that a third of all financial directors believed the CVs that they saw contained false information.

Jeff Groat, the managing director, says: "If anything, such practices have got worse. The number of applicants per job has tripled and competition makes some applicants try to bend the rules. The most common lies are about qualifications, age and previous salary. These are the black lies. Then there are the white lies, about job experience."

Mr Groat has recently been involved in three cases where applicants lost jobs because they lied about the class of degree, their age and their previous salary. "The age thing is terrible because we have become prejudiced against age during this recession. A man who was 53 and said he was 42 was found out when the company tried to arrange a visa. It stems from the attempts of people to oversell themselves."

The fact that in a competitive environment people lie to get jobs is

not surprising; few employers make exhaustive checks. Most are happy that the applicant was employed at the place he or she named. There is usually no detailed conversation about why the applicants left. Few employers will go back over the years to find out whether the original qualifications are genuine, let alone ask the applicant to produce certificates.

One technical magazine editor says: "I sometimes check the reference of would-be journalists on the phone. I have never checked their educational qualifications; perhaps I should."

Mike Biddle, senior partner with Goddard & Smith, chartered surveyors, says: "Recently, there have been one or two worrying instances

of people saying they are more qualified than they are. It would help avoid any doubt if applicants were to send their professional certificates with their CVs."

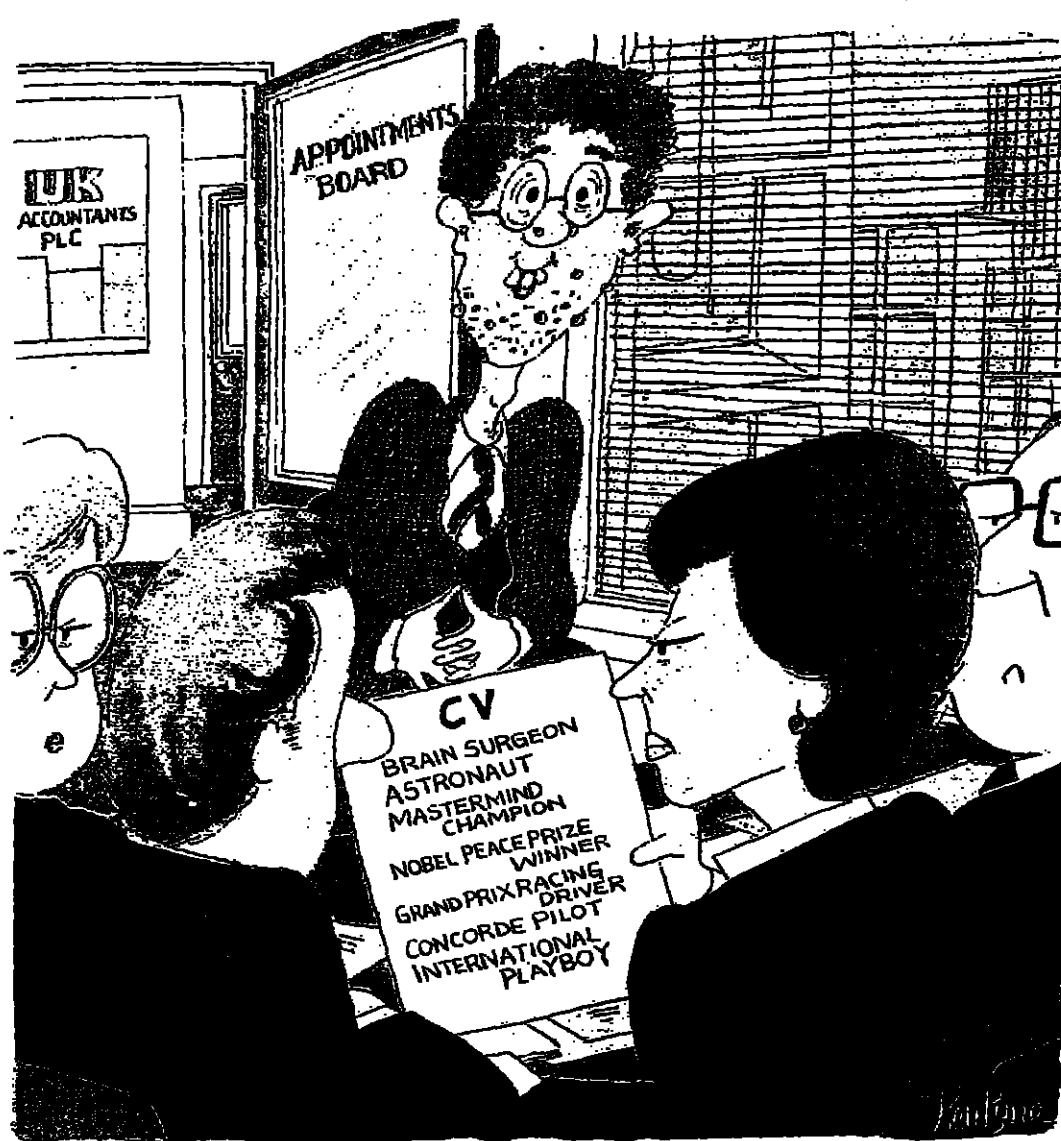
At least one of people saying they are more qualified than they are. It would help avoid any doubt if applicants were to send their professional certificates with their CVs."

At least one university says it gets a lot of employers checking not only the degree and its class, but what the syllabus involved. Brian Rowlands, of Keele, adds: "But that's not saying that every employer checks."

In the case of one employer, it was not until private detectives intervened during a bitter takeover struggle that a senior captain of British industry was found not to have received the Harvard master of business administration degree referred to in his CV.

One detergent manufacturer remembers a "cricketing and squash blue from Oxford" passing all the company's assessment tests with flying colours. The man seemed uncomfortable in his job and the whistle was blown at a staff cricket match when it was obvious the "cricket blue" hardly knew the rules.

Trevor Morris, managing direc-



tor of Quentin Bell, the public relations agency, which employ 40 people, says: "I always phone for references, but I never check qualifications. Few people lie and the extra time taken in being suspicious would not be worthwhile. I expect people to tell the truth and I trust my judgment."

"You pick up people who lie either because of something they say or through instinct, and you do not employ them. I have employed people who misrepresent the truth, for example, claiming to have managed a project single-handed, when they were part of a team."

Sometimes, Mr Morris concedes, you have to admire the style of such interviewees. "Most people," he says, "will add a bit of gloss to their experience. But that is different from claiming to have an MBA or a job they never had."

The usual lie about jobs is to have one of them disappear from the list. If somebody has been sacked, they often think it is better to paper the experience over by extending other employment. This technique is also used to hide periods of unemployment.

Richard Keir, principal consultant with PA Group, the executive recruitment agency, says: "We see on a regular basis people obscuring their age. A CV without a date of birth starts alarm bells ringing."

"More common is executives trying to conceal the fact that they are unemployed. They tell us that they are still working 'but we should not phone them at the office' — all kinds of untruths, which we will eventually uncover. Such people constitute a minority, but they are there. They have to level with us or the trust goes and we have to worry about their integrity."

Paula Grayson is personnel di-

rector at Luton College of Further Education and chairman of the Institute of Personnel Management recruitment forum. "My own feeling is that only one in a hundred tells outright lies," she comments. "But at least one in four will seriously exaggerate their achievements."

"One rarely catches anybody out. Occasionally, if they start to fuster over some point, you get a feeling and their chance has gone."

"I spent 13 years in industry and I must say that here, at the college, we are far more thorough in checking qualifications. One way for employers to beat the lies and exaggerations is to use not only an application form but to assess those short-listed properly over a day."

"However, if somebody is good enough at bluffing their way through the assessment process, they are probably good enough to bluff their way through the job."

Looks can kill your chances

SEVENTY-FOUR per cent of interviewers say a decision on a candidate can be made in the first five minutes or less, according to a survey published in *Personnel Administrator*.

The typical response was: "It usually takes about 30 seconds. First impressions last and interviewers are most often looking for a type of person who will fit into the organisation."

Liz Baker, of Colour Me Beautiful, explains: "As image consultants, we sell confidence and self-esteem. The confidence of people who have been made redundant has taken a great blow and needs building up."

Chris Blasdale, chief executive of Pauline Hyde and Associates, agrees that appearance is crucial. "It is all right for a boffin meeting another boffin to wear Fair Isle sweaters and sandals, but as a general rule, men should wear a dark suit, and white shirt and dark tie," she says. "People should see good quality, well-cut clothing as part of a necessary investment in their future career."

Ms Baker agrees, and adds: "Avoid designer ties. They say, 'I have style, just like Christian Dior'. Don't advertise somebody else's style. Develop your own."

Shoes, she says, have a language of their own. "Trendy, shiny slip-ons say, 'I haven't been a professional very long and have a short track record of success'; rubber-tyre sole, ever-so-comfy shoes say, 'I'm really a behind-the-scenes guy going nowhere fast'."

Brian Ranger, of New Careers, makes a further point. "It may seem obvious, but hair should be properly cut and washed and finger-nails clean."

The rules for men are relatively simple. Those who follow the guide lines outlined above, who wear lace-up black brogues and carry an electric razor if they are prone to five o'clock shadow, cannot go far wrong.

For women, the whole question of appearance opens up a myriad of pitfalls. To make matters worse, a woman's appearance has much more effect

on the success or otherwise of career than does a man's.

A study by the Centre for Creative Leadership found that the progression of a man's career depended on competence, while the progression of a woman was ability plus an acceptable image and presence.

Cherry Marshall of The Elegant Woman, offers practical guidance to business women. She advises against power dressing (huge shoulder-pads, very sharp, masculine looks), and against dresses (they never fit). Skirt, tights, shoes, handbag (or briefcase — one or the other, but not both) should all be in the same dark tone.

Wear simple round-necked tops and steer clear of bright yellow and white, which suggest that you don't get down to work. Wear cream, or light grey next to the neck, either as a top or in a scarf. It is a simple trick. Ms Marshall says, which gives a whole glow to the face. Wear very little jewellery, discreet make-up and no scent.

For interviews, build up a wardrobe separate from everyday wear, based on classics that are interchangeable. Keep it immaculate and always buy the best you can afford. "Above all," she emphasises, "it is important to be comfortable. Wear nothing too tight or short. Never wear high heel shoes."

Ms Blasdale says that in certain sectors, different dress codes apply. "A client who wore jeans and a T-shirt to an interview with a very left-wing council got the job."

Likewise, Jacqui Sinnott, one of London's leading graphic designers, is certain the hat she wore to an interview tipped the scales in her favour. "I think it made me look just a bit more interesting and creative."

In a highly competitive market, your appearance can give you that vital edge.

CLARE HOGG

● Contacts: Colour Me Beautiful (071-627 5211); The Elegant Woman (071-700 0941); Pauline Hyde and Associates (071-242 4875); New Careers (Winchester Ltd) (0962 868 149)

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Write with full CV including salary details to
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Estate Management
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Applications are invited for the post of Deputy Director in the Estate Management and Building Service of the University of Cambridge. The Estate Management and Building Service is responsible for the management and maintenance of the University's estates and premises and for the construction of its buildings. The Deputy Director will be required to assist the Director of Estate Management in carrying out these responsibilities and, in particular, to control and co-ordinate the building and services sections.

The Deputy Director's salary is £32,466 per annum. Membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme is available. Further information about the post and the duties may be obtained from the Director of Estate Management, 74 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RW, tel: (0223) 337770 to whom applications, including a Curriculum Vitae, details of age, qualifications, experience, and the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to arrive not later than 15 May 1992.

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Applications are invited from people with a good first degree in sciences relevant to operational research such as physics, engineering or applied mathematics and a significant post graduate record of solving problems. Candidates should be acquainted with systems concepts and able to move easily between observed physical and probabilistic relationships and their expression in mathematical form. The work will be orientated towards the intensive use of microcomputers.

Starting salaries range from £16,653 to £22,522 including £725 Over London Weighting allowance.

For an application form and further details please contact the Recruitment Section, Building Research Establishment, Garsington Road, Oxford, OX4 1JF. Telephone 0923 664745.

Completed application forms should be returned by Friday, 8 May 1992.

Please quote reference BRE 18.

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Good to work for: Pru Leith is a friend, says her loyal assistant

When the boss is a friend

Headlines such as "Women fail boss test" and "Why can't they be more like a man?" were inspired by a recent survey

containing the startling information that almost two-thirds of secretaries would rather work for a man and almost a fifth who had worked for a woman said they were not prepared to do so again. This damning conclusion produced amusement and in many cases scorn from many experts in the field. "That sort of thing went out of the window years ago," explained Judy Farquharson, managing director of the secretarial agency of the same name. "It's all codswallop. I wonder if a man did the survey?" muses Seemah Joshua, personal assistant to Pru Leith, restaurateur and winner of the Institute of Directors Businesswoman of the Year Award.

Nicola Orchard, who carried out the survey for Alfred Marks, entitled: *The Boss: A quantitative report on secretaries' attitudes and experiences*, also expressed considerable surprise. "It seems odd in view of the evidence supplied by the survey, but from the 140 women bosses we have at Alfred Marks, we have never had a problem."

Lack of a sense of humour was one major gripe. Men, said many of those surveyed, were a lot more likely to have this quality than women: 59 per cent of men had it, as opposed to a mere 38 per cent of

Is it really so bad to be a woman's secretary, as a recent survey suggested? Clare Hogg talked to some scornful experts

women. "Women always tend to be on your back checking up. You can have a giggle with a male boss and if you make a mistake he won't come down on you like a ton of bricks," explains Lyn Walkes, temping for Alfred Marks in Southampton. Not so, says Seemah Joshua. "Women tend to take their jobs more seriously. You more often catch the sense of humour in off-guarded moments, but it's definitely there."

The Alfred Marks survey covered only temporary secretaries. Women bosses, who may be under greater pressure than men, and according to the survey are "more critical" than men, have less time to spend cultivating a temporary employee and demonstrating a sense of humour. Thus the results may have given a misleading picture of the views of secretaries in general.

Ms Orchard says: "We used temporary secretaries exclusively because we thought they would have a bigger spread of experience from which to draw."

They may have the breadth of experience, but perhaps not the depth. Ms Joshua, by contrast, has worked for Ms Leith for many

years. She often speaks to the secretaries of other well-known and respected women and says that she invariably feels a "sense of dedication and devotion" to the ladies they work for. "Pru Leith," she adds, "is not only my boss but a friend."

Women are more likely to socialise outside work, according to the survey. Only 32 per cent of male bosses were "friendly on a social

teamwork. Going out for a slap-up lunch with a female boss to celebrate a week's survival is more likely to be defined as "socialising" than as a "reward".

This idea of teamwork lies behind the series of Rank Xerox television advertisements where an efficient secretary, Donna, works with a high-powered lady boss, Juliet.

Jennifer Powell, Xerox's advertising manager, says: "We're getting away from the office of the past. Instead of the traditional roles of male boss and female underdog, the boundaries are much more blurred. Juliet and Donna work together as a team."

However, another Alfred Marks temporary secretary has a different view. "Women put themselves on a different level," she says. They talk down to their secretaries, "treating them as if they are mindless".

Ms Farquharson is convinced that indeed intelligence has a lot to do with it. "In the early Eighties there was a more general preference for male bosses but not now. Very occasionally some secretaries do specify they would prefer to work for a man, but it is usually the less

bright ones: the ambitious ones won't do it."

Ms Farquharson believes that liking or disliking female bosses has nothing to do with age — "It's more to do with breadth of mind". Age may even be an advantage, with older secretaries more likely to be caring and maternal than competitive and ambitious.

Ms Joshua says, "I'm older than Pru and perhaps inclined to be somewhat sentimental." She suggests that younger women can be less realistic about having to make coffee, take photocopies and so on if they are working for a woman. She could be right. The average age range of the disenchanted Alfred Marks informants was 19-24.

John Mortimer, managing director of secretarial agency Angela Mortimer, is disparaging about the whole subject. "I find it a profoundly depressing and trivial survey. It is like asking if you prefer your apple with cream or ice-cream. Of course vestiges of discrimination remain. The role-model boss is supposed to look like a male and those who do not have to try harder. We are obviously only halfway conditioning."

However, if the survey is to be believed it seems that bigotry is still rife among the young. But those who luxuriate in such prejudice may find that they are increasingly excluded from some of the best jobs and most progressive employers.

'It is usually the less bright secretaries who specify they'd prefer to work for a man'

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Closing date: 7th May, 1992

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The Beadle, with a staff of secretary and Under Beadle, reports directly to the Clerk (Chief Executive). His Office, which was instituted in 1348, is responsible for the management of the membership of the Company, maintaining its traditions through supervising the Archives and ceremonial activities, arranging the Company business meetings and running the social functions of the Court and Livery.

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The appointment will be for 2 years initially with the possibility of extension for up to 5 further years to a total of 7 years.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND AN APPLICATION FORM (TO BE RETURNED BY 30 APRIL 1992) PLEASE TELEPHONE OR WRITE TO MISS WALSH, EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT BRANCH, ROOM N206, MOORFOOT, SHEFFIELD S1 4PQ. TEL: 0742 593269.

The Employment Department is an equal opportunity employer and is firmly committed to equal opportunity policies. Applications are welcome from all suitably qualified and experienced individuals irrespective of sex, racial origin or disability.



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The Chief Executive, CIBT Education Services, Quality House, Gyssol Campus, London Road, Reading RG1 5AQ. Ref.16/4T

This is a re-advertisement, previous applicants will automatically be reconsidered.



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The Department employs 385 staff and 980 operatives and has a total turnover of approximately £43 millions per annum.

The applicant must have had wide management experience at a senior level in the construction industry, preferably in both the public and private sectors and must be able to demonstrate specific success in achieving competitive viability, high quality work, a customer orientated service and effective Trade Union relationships.

You should have the appropriate qualities, backed by a recognised professional or technical qualification. For an informal discussion about the post you may telephone the current Chief Building Services Manager, Malcolm Burgess, on (0924) 297200.

Applications forms and further details are available from the Head of Personnel, 8 St. John's North, Wakefield WF1 3QA. (A telephone answering service is available outside office hours on (0924) 296780). Completed forms should be returned quoting post reference number CBSM1 no later than 30th April 1992.

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The British Red Cross requires an experienced Committee Secretary to service Council and other committee meetings. The successful candidate's responsibilities will include drafting agendas, ensuring all pre-meeting documentation is prepared, writing minutes and liaising with colleagues on post-meeting action. S/he will work closely with the committee chairman and HO staff, advising on issues being discussed, their presentation at meetings and the formation of likely resolutions.

Candidates should have ICSEA or an equivalent qualification and possess excellent organisational skills. They should be computer literate, preferably with a knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and of PC-based storage and retrieval systems.

Benefits include pension scheme, season ticket loan and staff restaurant. Please apply in writing to: Rosemarie Earlam, Personnel Manager, British Red Cross, Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ.

This is a re-advertisement; previous applicants need not re-apply. Closing date: 4 May 1992.

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